

PANZEE

Press

SB1250

FOR

PANZEEES

Senate Bill 1250: The Hearing and First Vote Approved



SB1250 for Dummies

MCC Celebrates Easter

Penn State Pride Celebration

Green High Heel Race

One Sentence Responses to SB1250 from BGLQT Organizations.

SHOW US YOUR PRIDE TOUR 2008

Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania Benefit Shows



Glenda's Cabaret & Panzee Press Presents

PRIDE IN SELF, PRIDE IN FAMILY,
PRIDE IN ALL THAT YOU DO...

PANZEE
Press:

Grand Marshal

Total collected, all candidates:

\$135.10

Rev. Eva O'Diam	39%
Greg King:	27%
David Payne	14%
Stephen Glassman	11%
Marlene Kanuck	7%
Judy Chambers	2%

Find voting boxes @:

The Bare Wall, Brownstone,
Club XS, Dawg Haus, Liquid 891,
Neptunes, Stallions, and Strawberry.
Voting Boxes will also be available
at all Pride Benefits.

Remaining Show Dates

Club XS:	April 4
Brownstone:	April 5
CC's:	April 19
Club Z:	May 3
Twin Peaks:	May 30
Tally Ho:	June 14
Dawg Haus:	June 2
Strawberry:	July 13

**June 27th: Miss Gay
Pride @ Club XS**

**Tuesday, May 20th:
Dine OUT for PRIDE
Save the Date!**

RUMORS

PRESENTS

LADIES OF ILLUSION

April 12th, 2008 @ 10:00pm

Performances By:

- Miss Tequila Daniels – Miss Gay PA America 2007**
- Miss Aurora Fontaine – Miss Central PA Gay Pride 2007**
- Miss Mia D'Amore – Miss Harrisburg America 2007**
- Miss Ashley Lynn – Miss Luzerne County 2008**
- Miss Michelle Leigh Sterling – Miss Gay PA 1999**
- Miss Alicia Deleval – Miss Lancaster America 2007**
- & Miss Ivanna Steele – Tickets: \$10 in Advance - \$15 at the Door**

661 North Centre Street, Pottsville, PA

570-622-8687

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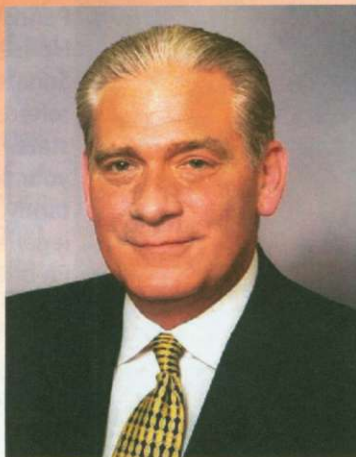
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REPRESENTATIVE

RON BUXTON HAS A STRONG PRO-LGBT RECORD!

- In this and previous sessions, he has co-sponsored the bill to ban anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing and credit.
(HB 1400/SB 761)



- Continues to oppose the anti-gay marriage state constitutional amendment.
 - Endorsed by the Capital Region Stonewall Democrats in 2006.
 - Endorsed by PA-GALA in 2006.
- Represents the 103rd District: The City of Harrisburg, Borough of Steelton, Borough of Highspire and Wards 1 and 3 in Swatara Twp.

**VOTE FOR REPRESENTATIVE
RON BUXTON
IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
TUESDAY APRIL 22, 2008**

Senate Bill (SB) 1250 for Dummies

Congress passed The Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, in 1996. DOMA bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages, and allows states that do not recognize same-sex marriages to ignore those performed in another state or country. The same year, Pennsylvania created its state DOMA, which defines marriage as being between one man and one woman, and states that Pennsylvania will not recognize same sex marriages from other states. The state DOMA is a statute, which can be overturned by courts. SB 1250 is an attempt to amend our constitution, such that courts cannot overrule it. Those opposed to the bill say that SB 1250 does far more damage than the state's DOMA, since it also invalidates unions that are functionally equivalent to marriage.



Pennsylvania has two branches of government; the House, made up of 203 representatives, and the Senate, made up of 50 senators. Each member, often referred to as legislators, represents an area within the state. You live in one such area. You should know who your senator and representative are, and more importantly, you should let them know how you feel about legal topics, including SB 1250. Equality Advocates of PA offers a website such that you can find your legislators:

Go to EqualityPA.org, and then click Take Action! And then Look up your Legislator.

Pennsylvania also has a very helpful website to assist you in finding your legislators, as well as providing lots of information as to the goings on of legislation:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us>

If you're not computer savvy, there are many agencies that will help you, or you can always call Bolton at Panzee Press: (717) 564-2477.

SB 1250 proposes an amendment to the state constitution (PA has its own constitution, not to be confused with the U.S. Constitution). Our government, in all its wisdom, makes it difficult to amend the constitution. Such an amendment must make its way through these steps:

- 1) A bill must be introduced in the Senate or the House. In this case we're discussing Senate Bill 1250.
- 2) A sub-committee (or two) must vote on the bill. In this case, SB 1250 was reported out of committee (it passed) from the Judiciary Committee on March 18th. As with all Senate bills, it still needs to go through the Appropriations Committee.
- 3) The legislative branch (House or Senate) must vote on the bill. In this case the full Senate still needs to vote on the bill.
- 4) The opposite branch needs to approve the bill with the same wording. In this case, the House will need to vote and pass the bill.

Senate Bill (SB) 1250 for Dummies Continued

- 5) The bill must make its way through both the House and the Senate again in the following session. Sessions are two years: 2005-2006, 2007-2008. If SB 1250 passes both the Senate and the House in 2008, it can make its second trip through both legislative branches in 2009.
- 6) The final step to amending the constitution is that it goes to a vote by all the people of the state (you and me, and all those people who insist we're going to hell). This could happen as soon as November 2009.

In 2006, our legislators came very close to passing a bill through both the House and the Senate. Pennsylvania House Bill 2381 passed the House with a vote of 136 to 61 on June 6th, 2006. The bill proposed to amend the constitution by adding the following words:

"ONLY A MARRIAGE BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN SHALL BE VALID OR RECOGNIZED AS A MARRIAGE IN THIS COMMONWEALTH, AND NEITHER THE COMMONWEALTH NOR ANY OF ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS SHALL CREATE OR RECOGNIZE A LEGAL UNION IDENTICAL OR SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT TO THAT OF MARRIAGE FOR UNMARRIED INDIVIDUALS."



The Senate did not pass HB 2381 as written, but instead amended the bill such that the proposed constitution amendment would end at the word "commonwealth":

"ONLY A MARRIAGE BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN SHALL BE VALID OR RECOGNIZED AS A MARRIAGE IN THIS COMMONWEALTH."

**EQUAL
RIGHTS
NO MORE
NO LESS**

**READ
PANZEE**

Any such legislation has to pass both legislative chambers more than 90 days prior to a statewide election. This amended version of the bill did not complete approval by the House within that deadline prior to the 2006 elections, and hence did not pass its first trip through the House and Senate. Any new attempt had to wait until the next session: 2007-2008.



Senate Bill (SB) 1250 for Dummies Continued

Here, in 2008, the Pennsylvania "marriage amendment" came up in front of the Senate as SB 1250 which proposes to add these words into our state constitution:

"NO UNION OTHER THAN A MARRIAGE BETWEEN ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN SHALL BE VALID OR RECOGNIZED AS MARRIAGE OR THE FUNCTIONAL EQUIVALENT OF MARRIAGE BY THE COMMONWEALTH."

SB 1250 passed the Senate's Judiciary Committee ten to four on Tuesday, March 18th, 2008. It now has to go through the Appropriations Committee before going to a full Senate vote. The Appropriations Committee is designed to make sure there's enough money to pay for any expenses related to putting the bill into action. When the Judiciary Committee found that they didn't want to spend any more time on the bill, but many suggested that they didn't have enough time and information to vote on the bill, they decided to pass it along to the Appropriations Committee and let them

hold public hearings. You might ask, "Why would the committee designed to assure there's enough finances to support a bill that doesn't cost anything hold public hearings?" The reason you don't know the answer is not because you're dumb. Several of the senators in the Judiciary Committee were stumped on this same point, but they voted it through anyway.



Devlin v. City of Philadelphia

According to some supporters of the bill, the wording, "functional equivalent of marriage," was actually designed by the bill's co-sponsors to allow for some sort of domestic partnership benefit. This is because there was a court case, *Devlin v. City of Philadelphia*, for which the Pennsylvania Supreme Court determined that creating a marital status "life partner" on which to confer employment-related benefits was not the "functional equivalent" of marriage. So from one slim perspective, one could say gays can still find a way to gain benefits similar to marriage, but that's only a slim perspective. All supporters of the bill, and those opposed, will tell you that the wording is designed to prevent state recognized civil unions. Nobody, supporter or opposed, can define the difference between a civil union, a domestic partner or a life partner. Simply because one ruling said a "life partner" is not the functional equivalent of marriage, does not dictate what various courts and cases will decide on various lawsuits which will surely come up. During the one hearing for SB 1250, many witnesses, experts in the law, cited grave examples in other states that attempted such legislation. Expert witnesses also provided theories on how such a constitution amendment will be used to remove and prevent benefits for gay couples.

Senate Bill (SB) 1250 for Dummies Continued

Who's driving the bus?

You might think of each legislative branch (Senate and House) as a bunch of voters in a bus. There's only one bus driver. This committee leader keeps organization on the bus, and controls things, like how often and where hearings are held. The bus driver for the Senate's Judiciary Committee also happens support the bill. This is sort of like having a player of one football team be the referee. As such, nobody's terribly surprised that SB 1250 went through the Judiciary Committee in little over a month. Several senators on the Judiciary Committee (riders on the bus) said there should be more time and more hearings held statewide. The bus driver, Senator Greenleaf, drove the bus as quickly as possible to the vote. He held only one hearing the day before the vote.

Future of SB 1250

PanzeePress poled the senators from March 24th to the 26th, 2008. Twenty-seven would vote "Yes" to SB 1250, ten would vote "No", six were undecided, and seven were unavailable for comment. It's too early to tell how the House might vote. House Representatives have not been asked to review the bill. However, by reviewing the House vote results from the similar 2006 bill, HB 2381 (136 to 61), it doesn't look good.



The only good news is that the bus driver in the House will likely be a Democrat, and Democrats are more likely to vote in favor of equal rights. Many who oppose SB 1250, seem to think it won't pass the House. I'm not sure if this optimism, or hopeful thinking is justified.

A very similar piece of legislation already passed the House 136 to 61. While the committee does have a leader, who can steer the committee, ultimately, each legislator gets a vote. Two years ago, we had a Republican majority in the House, and now we have a Democratic majority, but the majority is only by one person: 102 Democrats to 101 Republicans. To make matters worse, this issue is split on the lines of rural areas (Yes to SB 1250) vs. urban (No to SB 1250) rather than Democrat vs. Republican. Pennsylvania has many more rural districts than urban ones. Even if the bill doesn't go through this year, a strong objection will reduce the chance of a similar bill from coming up again, and could damage the reputation of legislators who vote for it.

— Bolton Winpenny, with a great deal of quick education from Stacey Sobel and Jake Kaskey of Equality Advocates.

AYE

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No union other than a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as marriage or the functional equivalent of marriage by the Commonwealth.

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The above are the exact words that the judiciary committee of the senate voted to add into our Pennsylvania constitution. The bill is designed not only to redefine marriage, but also to prevent the state from creating, recognizing, or providing benefits to civil unions.

Supporters of the bill desire to "defend marriage." They intend to prevent marriage from diminishing as a social institution. By making the civil definition of marriage strict and geared specifically toward procreation, they hope to reinstitute its sanctity. The idea is to show future generations that marriage is a sacred institute, which needs to be honored. Marriage should be represented such that it is worth working through hard times to maintain. A good marriage will lead to proper raising of children. Assuming such a bill does increase the strength of marriage, fathers will be more likely to remain involved in the upbringing of their children.

Those opposed to the bill view the words "one man and one woman" as discriminatory. The purpose of our constitution is to provide protections and individual rights, not to deny them. The inclusion of the words denying "functional equivalent of marriage" cause a much stronger call for opposition. Those opposed can't find a single example, or solid evidence that this amendment will lead to its desired effects. It will clearly remove and prevent equal rights to same sex couples. Does it also mean to not recognize Domestic Partners? What's the difference between Civil Unions and Domestic Partners? How far can this legislation stretch? Will it void the existing Pittsburgh ordinance, which allows for benefits to people who have "the functional equivalent of marriage"? Will it put into question, and offer legal loopholes for insurance companies not to pay out on domestic partner benefits from corporations? Does a collection of legal documents that a gay couple put together for themselves constitute an equivalent of marriage? Can a homophobic parent nullify the Last Will and Testament of their daughter who leaves her estate to her domestic partner? While some sponsors of this bill reiterate that it is not designed to remove existing rights, much evidence is provided that it likely will. Those opposed to SB1250 believe it is clearly written to prevent equal treatment of all Pennsylvania citizens.

In order to quell oppositional fear of the general wording, some SB 1250 supporters point to *Devlin v. Philadelphia*, and say that this is where the words "functional equivalent" were derived. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court stated that creating a marital status - "life partner" - on which to confer employment-related benefits, was not the "functional equivalent of marriage." The idea, from many supports of the bill, is that the use of these same words allows for the courts to rule in favor of domestic partner benefits. At the same time, these words take the Pennsylvania Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) one step further by not allowing what is commonly thought of as civil unions.

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What exactly the difference between what would be allowed, and what would not be allowed (i.e. the difference between a civil union and a domestic partner) is left unclear.

A different set of those who support the bill, say the wording "function equivalent" comes from New Jersey legislation. This 2nd camp of SB 1250 supporters say the wording "function equivalent of marriage" is used to specifically combat the wording in New Jersey that allows a civil union to be the functional equivalent of marriage. This 2nd camp intend to ensure DOMA is not overruled by courts in any manner, and not allow a same-sex marriage by any name.

Both supporting camps of the bill say that it is nothing more than removing power by courts to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). Those opposed state that DOMA has nothing referencing civil unions so SB 1250 with it's "functional equivalent" wording is far more damaging. Furthermore, there is a huge difference between the power of a statute like DOMA, and the power of our constitution.

Those indifferent to the matter notice that by leaving the definition between Civil Union and Domestic Partner unclear, we would be leaving it to the courts to make decisions on relevant law suits. This result directly conflicts with the bill's initial intent to take the decision regarding the definition of marriage away from the courts.

The Hearing

A public hearing was held for this bill on Monday, March 17th, 2008, in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Ten people provided statements, each followed with questions by the judiciary committee. There were about 150 people in the room to witness the hearing. While there was more testimony opposed to the bill then supporting it, only a handful of people, including those giving testimony, applauded the opposition. This left about 145 who applauded in support of the bill, several holding signs, and some who directed those signs, and their jeers, at the few people attempting to gain and defend their "functional equivalent" with other Pennsylvania citizens.

Those speaking were: four in favor of the senate bill, and six opposed. Only four or five of the judicial committee members asked questions or made comments, which revealed their thoughts on the legislation. None of the vocal senators seemed to object to a constitution amendment for the words "one man and one woman", but the committee seemed split on the portion of the bill regarding "functional equivalent of marriage". Of fourteen voting senators, there were ten in attendance near the beginning of the hearing at 10:30 AM, but only about six stayed for most if it, and only three remained by the end, at 2:00 PM.

Senator Greenleaf, who conducted the hearing, repeated the same question after each person provided a statement: "Will this bill remove existing rights?" He repeated the same question, regardless of what was involved within each statement.

Early in the hearing, Senator Earll made the statement that a decision on a constitution amendment should take many months of debate, and hearings should be held statewide. She felt that the fact that the judiciary vote was scheduled on March 18th, after the bill was referred to the committee on February 14th, with only one hearing in Harrisburg, was unjust and imbalanced to the importance of the matter. In her opinion, the senators needed much more time, and a much further geographical expanse, to hear and review testimony from all Pennsylvania citizens.

It is clear that this entire action is being prompted by fear - fear of change, fear of gays and lesbians, and fear of a God that exacts retribution for a human condition that apparently God built into us! How sad that our legislators are willing to spend the enormous time and money to promote these oppressive ideas and change our constitution because of absurd fears.

Blaise Liffick, President, Board of Trustees,
Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

No politician, in the history of the United States, has ever been lauded favorably for voting in favor of discrimination against a minority. Voting to enshrine discrimination against a minority group in the State Constitution is nothing more than contemptible.

Liz Bradbury, Executive Director
PA Diversity Network, Lehigh Valley

If heterosexual marriage is so great, why are there so many divorces in the USA? I know of several GLBT families out there that could make history with their families and that makes me proud to be able to call them friends.

Ron Blaize, Co-Chair, Lancaster Pride

Thank you John Adams - for having wisdom, common sense and foresight, and for knowing your job was to protect and defend a young country from the tyranny of an oppressive king. And for not allowing the office to go to your head to cloud judgment that could affect so many lives. Where are you today, John?

Rich Riccio, Interweave,
Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster

I believe that if two people are committed to each other, then they should have the same rights as married people. After all, a piece of paper does not change how people feel about each other.

Jacki Gaynor, owner TS R US, Harrisburg

America was originally founded as "The Land of the Free." Our government is in place to ensure that our freedoms are maintained and protected. It saddens us deeply to see that instead of protecting our freedoms, they are using their elected powers to take them away.

Daniel Kincade and Syrena Daniels
Owners, Miss Drag All-Star, Reading

SB 1250 is a bill that will allow discrimination of a rather large group of Pennsylvania citizens. We cannot allow discrimination of any kind in Pennsylvania. Period. We are all God's children and must learn to get along.

Judy Chambers, Editor/Owner
Lavender Letter, Harrisburg

The first 2 words make it very clear [no union]. We can't use the term [marriage] so we have been forced to adopt the term civil union. Now they want to take the power out of the term by using language to prohibit us from receiving the benefits allowed to married people. The powers-that-be want us to pay taxes to support the school system, our city, the state and the nation. However, we are treated like outcasts when it comes to basic human rights!

Vicki Dominatrix, Allentown

I am appalled by the fact that the Pennsylvania Judiciary Committee voted to amend our constitution with the words: "No union other than a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as marriage or the functional equivalent of marriage by the Commonwealth." This attitude is all too reminiscent of the former ban on inter-racial marriage. The State has no business legislating what constitutes a "marriage" between two committed individuals. The institution of marriage should be determined by the two individuals who care deeply for each other, not by the government.

Personal conviction of Carrie Wissler-Thomas,
Artist and President of the
Art Association of Harrisburg

Pennsylvania E.O.Y. (Entertainer Of The Year) is committed to equality of all GLBT people in the commonwealth. We will stand behind the GLBT community 100%.

AJ Makibbin
Owner/Promoter, PA EOY, Harrisburg

It is horrifying when a State Senator, someone who should stand to protect the civil rights of all citizens, especially minorities, states and votes that my rights are not equal to the rights of all other Pennsylvania citizens. Piccola's bigotry and prejudice are overwhelming.

Dan Miller, Harrisburg City Council, Harrisburg

SAD that a 27 year relationship with my partner Ben is treated with such disregard and ANGRY that a 27 year relationship with my partner Ben is treated with such disregard.

Rich Spangler, President, Reading Pride Celebration

I feel like my State Legislators consider me not worthy of my right to marry the person I love. I feel it is time to end discrimination against any individual. I am hopeful the citizens of this state won't be so narrow-minded, and reject this amendment to the State Constitution.

Dave Walker, Pride Board President &
Pride Fest Chair 2008, Harrisburg

Senate Bill 1250 is just one more attempt by some Pennsylvania lawmakers to desperately divide, deny and discriminate. Let's come together as a community and fight against it, but let's not be hopeless - same-gender couples will someday have the same marriage rights as heterosexual couples. The time WILL come for equality in marriage!

Rev. Elizabeth Goudy
Pastor, Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley,
Allentown, PA

While I have never really harbored much hope for gay marriage in PA, I have always believed we would head down the path of civil unions. This is a huge disappointment in this state that I love so much.

Michael Amory, Takeover Lehigh Valley

I was horrified to be amidst 150 people during the SB1250 hearing where almost all were willing to prevent my equal rights for fear they may somehow jeopardize the existence of humanity.

Bolton Winpenny, COO, Panzee Press, Harrisburg

This is a slap in the face of every gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered person by those serving on the Senate Judiciary Committee telling us that we do not deserve equal rights. Each one must be held accountable for their vote and face us, telling us why we should not receive equal rights under the law.

Rev. Eva O'Diam, MCC of the Spirit, Harrisburg

I support civil unions and domestic partners but I do not support the term Marriage. Marriage tends to bring religion into the arena and there is enough conflict working against us as it is now. Civil unions and domestic partnerships will preserve our rights without threatening the majority of people. We all deserve the same rights and respect others receive.

Keith Murphy, Neptune's Lounge, Harrisburg

When it comes to those who oppose same-sex marriage, we simply need to ask, "Has ANY of the concerns over the sanctity of marriage come to fruition in Massachusetts, which has now allowed thousands of civil, gay marriages for the past several years?"

Jeff Brauer, North East PA Rainbow Alliance

I think this is just sad that in this day and age that the Pennsylvania Judiciary Committee would do something like this. We cannot let this happen. We need to act on this if we want to make a difference.

Glen "Glenda" Wagner, Harrisburg

I still wait for a compelling argument as to why prohibiting gay and lesbian people from marrying does anything at all to protect and enhance the institution of marriage. Even without "gay marriage" the divorce rate manages to remain high; domestic violence continues to be a significant problem; children remain subject to emotional and physical abuse; noted leaders in the family values circles are exposed as adulterers and some have even been shown to have had homosexual relations contrary to their own publicly stated value systems. I fear that SB 1250 is that proverbial red-herring trotted out yet again in an election year to distract us from the more important issues facing Pennsylvania's families: unemployment, health care, education, political reform, and many more.

Rev. Dr. David Zwifka

I don't care what you do in your bedroom, why do you care what I do?

Jeff Weary & Tim Rowe, Owners,
Liquid 891, Harrisburg

We're at a loss for words. It's just too flabbergasting.

Ron Fink & Bob Diebler,
Owners, The Bare Wall, Harrisburg

I can't wait for the federal government to turn all such state legislation around, because it will happen.

Charles Oswald, Events Manager, Club XS, York

It saddens me to no end to know that in a country where all men are created equal, I am still fighting for my right to be treated as such. I can only hope and pray that one day I will be able to enjoy 65 years of marriage with my partner, just as my great-grandparents. They accepted us, why can't you?

Justin Mason, Caliente' Productions, King of Prussia

We are tired of being the bone that gets thrown to the conservative constituency every time the governing body finds itself at a loss of what to do about the important issues at hand. Rising gas prices, more than 4% of the state's population unemployed, a falling housing market, a recession, jobs all over the state being sent to other countries supporting other economies, they address none of it. But, whether or not my partner should be allowed to inherit my estate without paying enormous taxes, and making sure she cannot receive my social security if I die thereby forcing her to go on assistance, now THAT gets their attention.

Rosemary Mirocco, Family woman with a female partner of 16+ years and 8 children, Harrisburg.

While saddened, I am not surprised that the Republican-led Senate has advanced this hateful amendment. This vote underscores the need for us to elect more fair-minded Democrats to the Legislature. For while the Republican-majority Senate is busy putting thousands of families at risk, the Democratic-majority House is holding the first-ever hearing on a bill that is positive for LGBT Pennsylvanians - a discrimination ban that would cover employment, housing, and credit.

Jeff Welshans, co-chair,
Capital Region Stonewall Democrats, Harrisburg

Won't our grandchildren read about this with the same amusement we have for Prohibition?

JD Stillwater, Harrisburg

We can all sit around and hope this doesn't pass, or we can stand up and join our voices with our friends, allies and groups such as SoulForce, HRC, and SPARC to ensure we put a stop to this discrimination. We must DEMAND our equality, not wait for someone else to do it for us.

boy jesse, PA Leatherboy 2002
The Pennsmen, Inc - Acting Vice-President, Harrisburg

The Unitarian Universalists of Pennsylvania have been performing commitment ceremonies for gay and lesbian couples for over forty years, and their families have been actively engaged in all aspects of church life, so for us this no longer falls in the realm of social experiment. We can testify to their ability to be just as dedicated to their partners and families as our heterosexual members are to their partners. Their commitments to each other have reached 20, 30 and 40-year milestones. They are not a "threat to civilization" as we know it - they are to be applauded as examples of what marriage commitment is all about.

Alanna Berger, UUPLAN Board member. Harrisburg

We are going back in time instead of forward.

Michael Shefet, Owner, Stallion's, Harrisburg

It's a shame that instead of focusing on important issues such as Pennsylvania's infrastructure, health care reform, and the economy, many of our legislators are once again wasting the taxpayers' time and money on a bill that is explicitly discriminatory. In a climate where a majority of Fortune 500 companies are providing domestic-partner benefits, our commonwealth is taking a giant leap backward with this legislation.

Michelle Simmons, Executive Director,
Common Roads, Harrisburg

Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce opposes this legislation and any similar legislation because it would discourage GLBT people from considering Pennsylvania as a state they would consider for employment or business start-up/expansion. It also would entrench a system that imposes an economic burden upon those GLBT couples that are now in the Commonwealth such as added costs of medical insurance/care, and joint property issues (inheritance taxes).

Russell A. Boggs, President/CEO

Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Harrisburg.

Guys are no different than Straights, they should have the same benefits, such as employer health care, provided for their partners. The only difference between our bar and the one down the street is that their guys bitch about gals and their gals bitch about guys. Our guys bitch about guys and our gals bitch about gals.

Cliff & Connie Wells, Owners, CC's Bar, Sunbury

If our state recognized civil unions, it would have helped Burnell & I on inheritance tax when he died after 47 years together. As for the word "marriage", I always thought that was a silly thing to fight for.

Rodney Nagle, Owner,

Altland's Ranch, Spring Grove

We are at a turning point in GLBT equality. By banding together, our diverse community can have power over politics — rather than politics having power over our community. Power to the People!!! Rainbow Rose Community (RRC) will be confirming a space for a Rally/Meeting Sunday April 27th and will get that info as soon as available. We'll also be making an attempt to invite as many groups and leaders of these groups to the Rally as well as local Representatives and Senators. The 27th will be after the April 22 primary so we should have an idea who we need to reach out to in the fall election.

Barry Ruelle, Rainbow Rose Community, Lancaster

RainbowRoseCommunity.org

Borne out of fear and misunderstanding, the proposed amendment would restrict the rights of loving and committed couples, and so should be defeated.

Benjamin C. Dunlap, Jr.,

Chair of the Equity for Gays and Lesbians Committee

The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, Harrisburg

When I was taught that all men are created equal and that we are endowed by our Creator with inalienable rights, which included the pursuit of Happiness, I didn't realize that this didn't include me, because of my sexual orientation. A civil union (the functional equivalent of marriage) between myself and my partner would, in my eyes, be the pursuit of Happiness, and I don't believe that our state should be against what the forefathers of our country established in the Declaration of Independence, no matter how "wrong" it is in their minds.

Michelle Leigh Sterling/Michael Frew, Promoter

Miss Gay Pennsylvania America Pageant, Harrisburg

State Government should treat all families without bias.

Discrimination should not be written in to our Commonwealth's constitution.

Mark T. Stoner, Board chair

Lancaster City Human Relations Commission

During this time in our history, with much upheaval in our personal and economic lives, this is not a time to separate people and legislate discrimination. There is much to commend in two parties embarking on the commitment of marriage, and the legislature and legal statutes should back all who choose to walk that path.

Cathy Nelson, President

Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus

If passed, this bill will make discrimination against a specific segment of the population legal. It is simply wrong. While our country and the Commonwealth of PA may state that it stands on the side of justice for all, true equality for all has always required that those with less power fight for justice. We will continue to stand up until justice for all is a reality and not just something politicians and lawmakers say.

Reverend Deborah L. Coggin, Senior Pastor of Vision of Hope MCC in Lancaster, PA

If we don't have equal rights, then we shouldn't have to pay equal taxes.

Northeast Pennsylvania Leathermen

Although it has implications far beyond its stated objective, Pennsylvania Senate Bill 1250 means to single out gay and lesbian relationships as unacceptable in the eyes of the law. As such, it fuels the fires of ignorance, intolerance, and hatred in Pennsylvania's communities. The LGBT Center Coalition's mission is to move in exactly the opposite direction, that is, to create a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for all in Central Pennsylvania. As such, the LGBT Center Coalition voices its strong opposition to SB 1250 and urges those who support the health and well being of all families, couples and individuals to contact their state senators to oppose this bill when it comes to the Senate floor.

Ted Martin, Spokesperson

Central PA LGBT Center Coalition

AIDS Community Alliance, as a provider of quality HIV care, support and prevention for all individuals regardless of age, gender, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ethnicity, national origin or physical or mental handicap, does not support any attempt to write discrimination into the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Philip K. Goropoulos, President/CEO

AIDS Community Alliance of South Central PA

Our state constitution has never been amended to limit the rights of Pennsylvanians and we should not create a precedent for using our constitution as a means to deprive some of our families of the rights that all families deserve. This anti-family amendment is nothing more than an attempt to ensure that some of the Commonwealth's families will enjoy the protections of the law, while others will not — it will not prevent a divorce or feed, clothe or educate a family's child — but it does have the potential to harm thousands of Pennsylvanians.

Stacey L. Sobel, Executive Director

Equality Advocates Pennsylvania, Philadelphia ■

ART ASSOCIATION OF HARRISBURG

By Carrie Wissler-Thomas



ART ON THE EDGE...EMERGING ARTISTS TAKE CENTRE-STAGE

One Night Stand Exhibitions took the art scene in Harrisburg by storm in 2007, with the Art Association of Harrisburg showcasing cutting-edge artwork by "emerging artists"

in city clubs and restaurants. The first few events of the monthly series, at Appalachian Brewing Company, Stock's on Second, Maxwell's, and Bricco's, attracted large, enthusiastic crowds of artlovers and the curious public. The concept was novel and the wave of popularity seemed insurmountable.

Then, the monthly One Night Stand Exhibitions became less and less well attended. Actually, having the ONSE's monthly was simply "over-saturating" the market. The Art Association drew back and re-grouped, and in 2008, the ONSE's will be held less frequently, and with a new jazzed-up feel. AAH volunteer Frank Orlando has taken the concept in hand and has booked the first ONSE of the year at Stock's on Second, 211 North Second Street, for Sunday, April 6, from 4 to 7 PM. Live music will be

provided by "The Greatest Funeral Ever," and artists will include painter Virginia Cohn Parkum, photographers Saleen and Michelle Hogan, surrealist Rick Moser, abstractionist John Bowermaster, Afro-Centric artist Jo Ann Neal, jeweler



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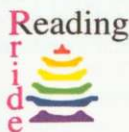


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Sally Tobias, and fantasy artist Frank Orlando. The next ONSE will be at Molly Branigan's on May 4.

There is NO cover charge now for the One Night Stands, but they still include complimentary hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, and terrific art by some artists you may not encounter in the more traditional gallery settings.

Harrisburg artists are fortunate right now, because besides the AAH One Night Stands, there are a number of other opportunities for new artists to "get their work out there." The Meatlocker Gallery in the 900 block of North Third Street was described in an earlier column. Now, Progressive Galleries on North Street, and The ArtHouse Lounge on North Second Street join the ranks of innovative places to show and sell artwork. Progressive Galleries, located in the Der Harrisburg Maennerchor's



Cathedral Room at 221 North Street, is unique in that owner Jonas Hair posts artwork on the website where it's offered for sale. Progressive handles not only regional artists' works, but also works by national artists. According to the website, available art ranges from jewelry, to paintings, to photography, in a huge range of subjects. Hair publicizes the Progressive's "Saturday Night Explosions" in massive email blasts, attracting large audiences to experience extravaganzas of light, music, film and art. Visit www.progressivegalleries.com to learn more!



Arthouse Lounge, 217 North Second Street, features art by regional artists in a casual atmosphere that encourages

visitors to sit, enjoy coffee and pastry, and enjoy the ambiance. Due to the size of the space, only a few artists are currently presented in the Lounge. These include ceramicist Thom Bissey, visionary artist Michael Moppin, photographer Lee Muslin, didgeridoo-maker Brian Nolet, owner Jason Piper, artists Jodie Schradin and Hope Sanders, and well-known abstract



NOLET

PIPER



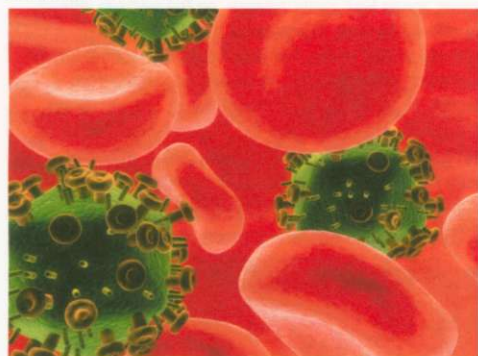
watercolourist Elizabeth Staz. For hours and more information, visit the website at

arthouselounge.com. (Both Progressive Galleries and ArtHouse Lounge will be part of the 20th Annual Gallery Walk on September 7, as will the Meatlocker!)

Carrie Wissler-Thomas

Syphilis and HIV

Syphilis has been around forever. Like so many other diseases, syphilis raged and infected many people before science was able to develop a way to practically rid it from our lives. In the 1940's, the discovery of penicillin was exactly what the doctor ordered to handily fight syphilis, an infection caused by bacteria and spread sexually, and cause a significant decline in the number of cases in this country. In recent times, however, this sexually transmitted infection (STI) has once again reared its ugly head causing problems for many sexually active people, including men who have sex with men (MSM).



In 2007, there were 11,181 cases of syphilis in the United States, and about 64% of them were due to MSM contact, according to the Centers for Disease Control and kaisernetwork.org. The reason these men are getting infected with syphilis is primarily due to non-condom use, according to the National Prevention Information Network (NPIN).

What's more disturbing is that some of the men who were infected with syphilis were also HIV positive and typically did not use condoms because many of them claimed there was no need to do so since they were already infected with HIV. This thinking tends not to make much sense. It is, however, thinking that is pervasive among many HIV positive MSMs.

HIV positive men who engage in risky sexual behaviors that might lead them to acquire syphilis should be aware that if they do become co-infected, they might be setting themselves up for a world of hurt. First, it's important to note that having HIV can actually make it easier to get syphilis, according to the body.

com. Additionally, men with HIV should keep in mind that ridding their bodies of syphilis – as well as other illnesses – can be a much tougher task by virtue of their infection and the fact that their immune systems are depressed.

According to aidsmap.com, one study also suggests that having HIV and then getting infected with syphilis may cause a person's viral load to increase and CD4 count to decrease. This study also suggested that men with HIV and syphilis might actually be more infectious than those who are not infected with both diseases.

For the record, people who are infected with HIV must be concerned with terms such as "viral load" and "CD4 count" as mentioned above. They are often an indicator of how a person is progressing in the fight against HIV. Viral load refers to the amount of virus present in a person's body and CD4, also referred to as T-cells, are cells that protect the body from infections and are typically targets of HIV.

Syphilis infection can cause significant troubles for a person who gets infected. Specifically, it can cause a painless chancre on a person's genitals, mouth, anus or any other place on the body where sexual contact occurred, according to webmd.com. A chancre may actually go away on its own, and leave you seemingly with no other symptoms. However, in reality, syphilis may also cause significant skin rashes, heart disorders, mental disorders and blindness. It may even kill you.



For more information on syphilis, contact your health professional, especially if you're HIV positive and fear you may have been infected with syphilis. You may also find other useful information by calling the CDC-INFO Contact Center at 1-800-CDC-INFO or by going to the CDC's Division of STD Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/std.

In the fall of 2007, the Community Center's Board of Directors embarked on a series of events we called "meet 'n greets." Designed as a comfortable, friendly and casual way to see what the public was thinking about our efforts to create an LGBT community center, they were very successful. Starting in September, when Stinson Stroup, Carol and Jake Reisinger, Jim Testerman, and Rob Spinazzola opened their homes, these events continued throughout October with meet 'n greets hosted by Benjamin Dunlap and David Leas, Philip Wenger and Steven Dinnocenti, Bebe Mullaugh and Jeff Lynch, and finally Ellen and Nick Hughes with Jonathan Vipond and Tim Bunner

Each meet 'n greet followed a similar format: social time where people could talk and enjoy some refreshments, followed by an informal agenda where guests could share their points of view on the prospect of an LGBT community center in Central Pennsylvania. The discussions were generally led by a board member, and started with a brief history of our strategic plan and the development of the board, along with a summary of activities to date.

It seemed that most guests felt pretty free to offer their insights and ideas concerning many issues related to the gay community and the Center. Following is a summary of some of those discussions:

- Guests were generally very positive about our efforts.
- A number of people expressed a concern that we should make a concerted effort to avoid duplicating the efforts of other local LGBT organizations.
- Guests universally felt that having the Center serve as a communications hub for the local LGBT community would be a great service, and probably the highest priority for the organization.
- Serving the ENTIRE region of Central Pennsylvania was pinpointed as essential to the success of the endeavor, and crucial to garnering the "buy-in" of the LGBT community.
- Guests generally agreed that advocacy for LGBT issues must be an integral element of Center activities.
- Any center MUST be accessible to the youngest members of the gay community.

In closing, we encourage everyone to follow our progress, ask questions, donate if you can and volunteer. For more information on the Center, please go to www.centralpalgbtcenter.org.

Mika - Life In Cartoon Motion(UK)

When it comes to providing something to sink your teeth into, our friends from across the Atlantic can always be counted on.

This year, the UK has given us Mika, a Lebanese-born, London-based, Grammy-nominated and Brit-Award winning singer/songwriter. What stands out most about Mika is his voice and style which has brought him comparison to some of the worlds most legendary artists etc: Scissors Sisters, Robbie Williams, Elton John, The Beatles (Sgt' Pepper's) and Freddy Mercury of Queen, but he is able to keep his sound fresh, hip and original. This 24 year old's debut release, *Life in Cartoon Motion*, has a coming of age theme and deals with his transition from childhood to the present. His songs often deal with difficult topics.

For instance, in "Big Girl (You Are Beautiful)" the theme of larger women suffering from discrimination is explored. Mika has said that the fact that his mother was a big woman, and that he had seen the prejudices against her, helped him to write the song. In keeping with the theme of dealing with difficult subject matter, in the song "Billy Brown", Mika writes about a man who has a homosexual affair. He has stated that not all of the songs are autobiographical. Other stand out singles are "Grace Kelly" which reached number one on the UK Singles Chart in 2007. That single features remixes by Tom Neville, Bimbo Jones, Linus Loves, and Pull Tiger Tail. "Relax, Take It Easy" and "Love Today" are also climbing the charts now, with help from some powerful remixes by, Dennis Christopher, Frank Musik, Ashley Beedle and Alpha Beat.

Fun and noteworthy is the track "Lollipop" which definitely has a dual meaning. The lyrics "Sucking too hard on your lollipop... Yes, love's gonna get you down". Talk about things that make you go HmMMMM?

I find this album (yes I'm from that generation) from beginning to end, to be infectious and fun filled without all the calories. No need to skip any tracks and miss any meals, you'll be dancing and boppin your ass off. This album is more than a hmMMMM it's hooooooooooooo.

Until the next curtain goes up,
Keep The Music Playin!

Jarvis

The Body Impolitic

By Cecil J. Brooks



I'm shocked, I tell you, SHOCKED!

Eliot Spitzer, erstwhile governor of the state of New York, also known as Client 9, has been known, according to the dispatcher of a call girl service, to "ask you to do things that, like, you might not think were safe." Say it ain't so.

Yes, another prominent politician has been brought low by the weight of his testicles.

Spitzer was supposedly caught in an ironic twist of law—the Patriot Act gives the Treasury Department authority to snoop on banking transactions with unprecedented intrusiveness to catch terrorists seeking to destroy the American way of life. No search warrants based on probable cause required. Quite the contrary. This is a fishing expedition of the largest possible scale. Banks are now required, under penalty of stringent sanctions, to analyze the activity of every bank account in America (including your bank account) with sophisticated software, searching for patterns that are unusual for that account, such as odd cash withdrawals, and then to file a Suspicious Activity Report with the federal government. One and a quarter million such reports were filed last year. One of the factors looked at is, oddly, whether or not the account holder is a "politically exposed person."

The Feds discovered that the governor of New York clumsily structured a wire transfer of 10,000 dollars to an offshore bank account. The cost of a used car. His own money. The federal government then launched an investigation costing perhaps a hundred times that much to figure out why. When he had a call girl take a train from New York City to Washington D.C. for four grand plus expenses, they had him on a federal crime: violation of the Mann Act, transporting a female across state lines for immoral purposes. The last time I heard of the Mann Act was in

a black and white movie from the Forties.

Let's get this straight here. Federal investigators got warrants and listened to 5,000 telephone conversations and read 6,000 emails and interrogated an undisclosed number of intimidated witnesses in secret to investigate a small New York City call girl operation? Since when is prostitution a federal crime? Oh, because they have an offshore bank account? Or because one of the ladies took a train to Washington, D.C.? Because the governor of New York structured a wire transfer of \$10,000?

Despite being a manifestly unlikable person, Eliot Spitzer was elected to the governorship of New York by a remarkable (please, no sniggering) 69 percent of the voters. This was on the strength of his record as state attorney general. In his years as the chief prosecutor in New York State, with a staff of maybe forty lawyers and only state legal authority, Spitzer did more to fight corruption in corporations, the stock and bond markets, the banking industry, and the insurance industry than the Securities and Exchange Commission and the federal Department of Justice even attempted to do. His work has had repercussions far beyond his state, as New York City is the nation's financial and business capital. He had vowed to continue his campaign against corrupt business practices by corporations as governor, and he was keeping his word.

Yes, he also prosecuted people for crimes like the one it turns out he participated in—sex for money. I do not excuse him for that—I am angry with him for his hypocrisy. But the fact remains that Spitzer was driven from office by the Bush administration, whose power base is the owners of mega-corporations and whose acknowledged goal from Day One was to deregulate corporations, to loose the bonds of public accountability on the very wealthy, and to let the fat pigs feed their fill at the taxpayers' trough without hindrance from zealous crusading prosecutors like Eliot Spitzer.

I wonder what you get for four grand?

Gayly Forward

(when giving it to you straight isn't enough)

Dear GF,

How many times must one indulge with one's own sex to be certified as a weekend Gay fellow?
Plato Dog Pavlov's Pluto

Dear PDPP,

Once. No, wait, twice. No, wait. Oh, hang on; let me consult my "Am I Gay?" encyclopedia. It has never failed me.

Rapidly flipping through pages

"Bondage... Boy toys... Fag hags... Gender bending... oh, here we are, "How many times?"

Let's see..."The number of times one sleeps with one's own gender to be truly considered gay is always best left up to the sleeper. Usually upon the first sleeping incident the sleeper becomes cognizant that something is up (no pun intended), and that they may need to consider the possibility that their sexuality may be more correctly defined as bisexual or gay. However, they may just be experimenting, fooling around, curious, or doing what comes naturally, and decide that their sexuality is of no one's business but their own."

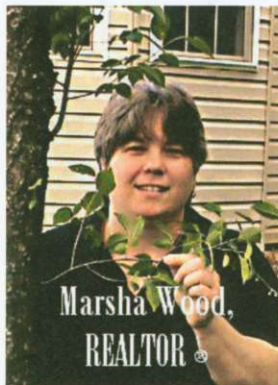
Now, I realize that you asked about being certified as a weekend Gay fellow. You've stumped me there, though. Nowhere in my trusty encyclopedia can I find Certification, nor Weekend Gay Fellow. Although I think that a certification program might not be a bad thing. You know, to keep out the riff-raff. Perhaps such a program should be started. Let's see, we could set the sleeping bar at a minimum of five indulgences with one's own sex. That seems like a fair enough number. You'll get all the experimentations out of your system, and be sure that you're sleeping with your own sex because you like it. There, of course, would be no maximum number. Just use protection, though.

Now, how to go about proving it? Hmmm... Perhaps little cards could be distributed, and upon the completion of each indulgence, each partner would initial each other's cards. Once you have five you could bring the card to a Certification Center, which could be a local GLBT Center, a doctor's office, or County Clerk's office. That would be official enough. Certificates could be printed up, and you could go get yours framed at Michael's.

I'm still not sure about this Weekend Gay Fellow part of it all, though. What would one do during the week? That pretty much goes against the purpose for a Certification program. Refer to my "riff-raff" statement. With what seriousness would anyone take certification? I mean, it should be good 24/7, don't you think?

So, there you have it. Decide on your own if you're gay, and consider starting that certification program. Oh, and before I forget, any program you start should also include gay gals. Wouldn't want to leave anyone out now, would we?

G.F.



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The Runners



Karen, Charlie
Miss High Heels 69



Jayce & Chris



Left: Receivers of Hose's Honorary award: John & Bill.
Front: Race Coordinators Phil & Biscuit
Runners:

- Mark for Strawberry
- Rachael for Strawberry
- Jamie for Neptune's
- Jimmy for Brownstone
- Mindy for Liquid 891
- Ikarus for Stallions



Glenda & Fan

The Green High Heel Race

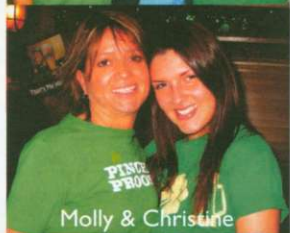
was held on St. Patrick's Day in Harrisburg earning \$3300 toward Pride Fest
Fastest Runner: Rachael
Best Pumps: Mindy
Most \$ Raised: Jim
Bar Most Raised: Brownstone



Miss Maxine Nightengale was announced as the top entertainer for 2008 Pride Fest.



Karen, Hali & Paula



Molly & Christine



Larry & Michael



Lena, Steph,
Shane & Staci



Steve & Darrell



Jackie, Chris, Sean, Nancy,

Marcy, John & JT



Mark



Mindy



Bryan



Dave



Steve

Drink More Water!

The number one health mistake that most people make is that they do not drink enough water. We are talking water; not coffee, soda, juice, milk... just plain water. Everyone has heard that they should be drinking 8-10 glasses per day, but few people do. The fact is that the majority of the population walks around in a constant state of dehydration. The first symptom of dehydration is hunger, followed by head ache, then dry sinuses, dry skin, unjustified stress, fatigue, lack of concentrating, and dry eyes, to name a few. You cannot lose weight, deal with stress, eliminate waste, digest food, grow new cells, metabolize nutrients or perform any bodily function properly without water. Picture your blood vessels slightly collapsed. The blood stream is the river of life. If it cannot deliver all of your nutrients to the cells, even the finest diet and nutrition cannot be utilized to regenerate your health and fight off disease. The single most important thing to insure your future health is to drink half your body weight in ounces of water (80 ounces for a 160 lb. person) per day.

Here is the solution: Right now, measure the amount of water your water bottle holds. Let's say it is 15 ounces. Put 5 rubber bands on the bottle and fill it with water. Every time you refill, take a rubber band off, and in only a day or two you will be up to capacity with water and feeling better for it. It takes 51 days to make something a habit, so stick with it for 2 months, and then it will come naturally. You will do it automatically without the rubber bands.

I bet that you will feel better when you are hydrated. Headaches will disappear, sinus problems will go away, you will have more energy, and it will be easier to follow your weight loss program. Did you know that most Americans mistake thirst for hunger? When you are fully hydrated you will not be as hungry. Try drinking more water for 51 days, as it takes 51 days to make something a habit. I guarantee that you will see a change in your life!

For more healthy living tips and to learn how to increase your metabolism, go to: www.WowYouAreReallyLucky.com

Invite Deb to speak to your club, school, church or corporation.
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Story Time

DARK FRIDAY

by Joe Gill

... Continued from March 19th.

TWO WEEKS LATER

It was a Friday night in the small townhome Will Parker shared with his new and loyal love, David Russet. David was in the kitchenette making the popcorn they always shared, while Will put in their weekly DVD. "Honey, do you want caramel on it tonight? It'd be some'n different," David called out. Will got up from the DVD, which was a gay love story - something to celebrate their final happiness. Will stepped up to David. "Awesome. Yeah, make a lot 'cause I'm hungry".

The bell rang and Will looked up with a glare of irritation. "Now who the hell's that?" Will said in slight disgust. He walked over, and as he opened the door, Will's face was met with the barrel of a thirty-ought-six rifle. His blood froze as Jeff and two masked accomplices pushed him in.

"Who is it, honey?" David's eyes widened in terror as Will was backed into him.

Jeff laughed with an evil smirk. "Told ya, babe! Looks like your daddy's gonna prove his love for you, huh?" Jeff looked over at the thug to his right. "Tie 'em up and gag 'em."

David took Will's hand, but the thug creep ripped it loose and forced David's hands behind his back. "No! Willy! Who is this?" David's voice trembled as he felt the duct tape gag his mouth. The captor then reached down to tie David's ankles.

"My ex, David. He has lived up to how shitty he can be." Then Will felt tape being placed over his mouth and his hands were bound behind his back. As his feet were tied, Jeff produced two hypodermics.

"Put you to sleep, Willy... I always loved watching you sleep." After feeling the sting of the needle in his upper deltoid, it only took seconds for the anesthetic to run throughout Will's nervous system. He saw David's eyes tear up as his own fluttered and dimmed.

Jeff winked at his sleepy captives. "I think two-million should suffice. Yeah, two-million bucks for two gay lover boys."

All went black for Will as he felt his body being picked up over one of the captor's shoulders.

To Be Continued

Penn State PRIDE Commitment Ceremony

On March 29th, in Alumni Hall of the Penn State Main Campus in University Park, PA, four couples walked down the aisle minutes before vowing life long commitments to each other. State College mayor Bill Welch conducted the ceremony in front of 500 seated guests, and another 150 standing room only. More guests had to be turned away.

Besides the mayor, (pictured right, middle) other speakers during the ceremony were Tom Koeber (left of the mayor), the primary organizer, and Steve Glassman (right of the mayor), Chairman of the PA Human Relations Commission. Steve spoke of the historic event and large step forward for Penn State and Pennsylvania.

The couples, pictured top down were: Delia Guzman & Kat Sinclair; Frank Vasquez & Paul Datti, Amanda Applegate & Donna Coffman and James Collins & Ryan Fitzpatrick.



On hand, to thwart would-be protestors were 75 Silent Witnesses. This highly organized and trained group allowed the officiators, wedding party and guests to attend to the matter at hand without concern of those who oppose gay marriage.

Standing in the Way of Those Who Join Protestors of Protestors.

Two blocks away, on Old Main lawn, you could find The Pennsylvania Family Values Rally. These protestors had their own protestors, an organized group representing gay students who claimed with a sign "We are Penn State, too." As is the mission of Silent Witness, they stood ready to prevent an altercation between a rally and its protestors. The duck tape across the mouths of the students, indicated a silent protest. Silent Witness remained mildly concerned regarding non-organized and agitated students joining the gay students. In the end, all the students filed away without incident.





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South Central Pennsylvania

Wed Apr 2	Fri Apr 4 cont.	Sun Apr 6 cont.	Tue Apr 8	Thu Apr 10 cont.
Strawberry 7:30 PM Weekly Bingo	Altland's Ranch 1stWeek Crounry	Club XS 4:00 PM 1stWeek Ladies Tea Dance Drag King Contest	Stallions 9:00 PM Weekly Trivia Red Star	Club XS Weekly College Night 18 and over
Stallions 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke	Club XS 1stWeek Leatherman & Bear Men	Free Food, Pool Dawg Haus 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke	10:00 PM Weekly Trivia Tally Ho 10:30 PM Weekly Karaoke	MCCotS 6:00 PM 2ndWeek Grief/Loss Support MCCotS 7:00 PM Weekly Praise Team
Red Star 10:00 PM Weekly Trivia	Liquid 891 Comedy & Jazz Classy & Sassy Hillary Fundraiser	Club XS 10:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Free Pool	Brownstone Weekly Free Darts	MCCotS Weekly Prayer Group Home of Fern & Laura
Brownstone Weekly Free Pool	Girls Night Out Lambda AA 8:00 PM Weekly	Stallions Weekly All Age Dance	MCCVH 7:00 PM Weekly Joyful Noise Choir	S.A.L.E. 8:00 PM
Club XS Weekly Cash Bingo	Meeting Fot the Bible Tells me so: 7:00 PM	UCH 9:15 AM Weekly Service 9:15am, 11:00 am	MCCotS 7:00 PM Weekly Choir Rehearsal	Shippensburg U. Student Advocacy Silent Witness Train Ceddia Union Bdg Room 215
Neptune's Weekly Free Buffet	Movie Presneation Millersville Univrsty Myers Auditorium	10:00 AM Unity Church Hbg	Pride CP 7:00 PM 2ndWeek Meeting Best West Eisenhower Blvd	Fri Apr 11 Stallions 8:00 PM Clinton Benefit Club XS 9:00 PM 2ndWeek Swingers Club Sexy Cool Meet & Greet Liquid 891 9:00 PM
MCCotS 7:00 PM Weekly Bible Study	Common Roads 7:00 PM	MCCVH 5:00 PM 1stWeek Men's Group	Wed Apr 9	
Volley Ball 7:00 PM Weekly Volley Ball \$3	Second Lazarus Documentary HIV/AIDS in Central PA	MCCotS Weekly Service 9am, 10:30 am, 7pm	Strawberry 7:30 PM Weekly Bingo	
SPECTRUM 5:30 PM Weekly LGBT Youth Meeting Ages 14-18	Pride CP @ XS Show us your pride Drag Show Tour	MCCVH Weekly Sunday worship 9:00 am & 11:00 am	Stallions 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke	
Stonewall Dmcrats 6:00 PM	Sat Apr 5	HBG Men's Chorus 7:00 PM Weekly Rehearsal Unitarian Church of Harrisburg (UCH)	Red Star 10:00 PM Weekly Trivia	
Meet Candidates McGrath's Pub 202 Locust St HBG	Stallions Weekly Ladies Night in Twin Peaks Bar	Reading Pride 1:00 PM	Brownstone Weekly Free Pool Club XS Weekly Cash Bingo	Studs Magazine release party with Mr. USA
MCCVH 6:00 PM 1stWeek HIV/AIDS Support Group	MCCotS 8:30 AM 1stWeek Renaissance Transgender Group	@Suburban Tavern Suds on Sunday Dance Party Perkiomen & 22nd Tks: (484) 955-2948	Neptune's Weekly Free Buffet	Altland's Ranch 2ndWeek Beer & Free Pizza
Thu Apr 3	MCCVH Leadership Meeting		Club XS Weekly Free Buffet	Club XS Porn Star Aaron James
Brownstone 8:00 PM Weekly Trivia	Womyn's Chorus 7:30 AM	Mon Apr 7	MCCotS 7:00 PM Weekly Bible Study	Lambda AA 8:00 PM Weekly Meeting
Liquid 891 8:00 PM Weekly Bingo	Pancake Breakfast Colonial Park United Church of Christ	Club XS 9:00 PM Weekly Trivia Night	MCCotS 7:00 pm Homosexuality in the Bible Class	3.12 8:00 PM
Stallions 10:00 PM 1stWeek Goth Night Dance			Volley Ball 7:00 PM Weekly Volley Ball \$3	Crimson Frog Coffeeshouse Common Roads 7:00 PM
Club XS Weekly College Night 18+	Pennsmen @Red Star Leather Fetish Club	Neptune's Weekly Free Buffet	SPECTRUM 5:30 PM Weekly LGBT Youth Meeting Ages 14-18	Borders Night
MCCotS 7:00 PM Weekly Praise Team	Pride CP @ Brownstone Show us your pride Drag Show Tour	Lambda AA 8:00 PM Weekly Meeting	Thu Apr 10	Sat Apr 12
MCCotS Weekly Prayer Group Home of Fern & Laura		Central PA 7:00 PM Weekly Womyn's Chorus Rehearsal Colonial Park UCC	Brownstone 8:00 PM Weekly Trivia	Stallions Weekly Ladies Night in Twin Peaks Bar MCCVH 10:00 AM
Fri Apr 4	Sun Apr 6		Liquid 891 8:00 PM Weekly Bingo	Pray Workshop Holy Ghost Weekend Prep
Stallions 7:00 PM	Liquid 891 11:00 AM Weekly Brunch			

South Central Pennsylvania

Sat Apr 12 cont.	Mon Apr 14 cont.	Wed Apr 16 cont.	BARS	
MCCVH 6:30 PM Amanda and Friends Concert Benefit Youth Ministry Dominican Republic	Neptune's Weekly Free Buffet MCCotS 6:30 PM Sharing our Caring meal for those affctd by HIV/AIDS	Neptune's Weekly Free Buffet MCCotS 6:00 PM 3rdWeek Board Meeting MCCotS 7:00 PM Weekly Bible Study MCCotS 7:00 PM 3rdWeek Pastoral Care Meeting MCCotS 7:00 PM Homosexuality in the Bible Class MCCVH 7:00 pm Class based on book: High-Voltage Spirituality	<u>Harrisburg</u> Neptune's Lounge 268 North St. (717) 233-0581 Every Day: 5p-2a	<u>York</u> Club XS 36 West 11th Ave (717) 846-6969 Daily: 4p - 2a ClubXSYork.com
Sun Apr 13	Liquid 891 11:00 AM Weekly Brunch Club XS 7:00 PM 2ndWeek Viral Comedy & Tunes Dawg Haus 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Club XS 10:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Free Pool Stallions Weekly All Age Dance Brownstone 2ndWeek Birthday Buffet UCH 9:15 AM Weekly Service 9:15am, 11:00 am MCCVH 12:00 PM 2ndWeek Jubilation Praise Team MCCotS 7:00 PM Membership class MCCotS Weekly Service 9am, 10:30 am, 7pm MCCVH Sunday worship 9:00 am & 11:00 am HBG Men's Chorus 7:00 PM Weekly Rehearsal Unitarian Church of Harrisburg (UCH) Pennsmen 4:00 PM 2ndWeek @Neptunes Meeting MCCVH 11:00 AM 2ndWeek HIV/AIDS Support Group	Lambda AA 8:00 PM Weekly Meeting Central PA 7:00 PM Weekly Womyn's Chorus Rehearsal Colonial Park UCC Stonewall Dmcrats 6:00 PM Board Meeting Tue Apr 15 Stallions 9:00 PM Weekly Trivia Red Star 10:00 PM Weekly Trivia Tally Ho 10:30 PM Weekly Karaoke Brownstone Weekly Free Darts MCCVH 7:00 PM Weekly Joyful Noise Choir MCCotS 7:00 PM Weekly Choir Rehearsal P-Flag Reading 6:30 PM 3rdWeek Meeting P-Flag Reading 6:30 PM 3rdWeek Meeting P-Flag York 7:00 PM 3rdWeek Meeting Wed Apr 16 Strawberry 7:30 PM Weekly Bingo Stallions 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Red Star 10:00 PM Weekly Trivia Brownstone Weekly Free Pool Club XS Cash Bingo	7:00 PM Volley Ball 7:00 PM Weekly Volley Ball \$3 CPGLCC 6:00 PM Business Mixer Host Marsha Wood Jack Gaughen Realtor ERA 101 Old Schoolhouse Mechanicsburg, PA SPECTRUM 5:30 PM Weekly LGBT Youth Meeting Ages 14-18 MCCVH 6:00 PM 3rdWeek HIV/AIDS Support Group ENTERTAINMENT Central PA Womyn's Chorus CPWChorus.org HBG Men's Chorus HarrisburgMens Chorus.org Art Assoc. HBG 21 N. Front Street Harrisburg 717-236-1444 ArtAssoc OffHbg.com Meat Locker Art Gallery 923 N. third St. Harrisburg, PA 3.12 ThreeTwelve.net	<u>Manheim</u> The Dawg Haus 168 S. Main St. (717) 665-0069 Thu-Sun: 6p-2a MySpace TheDawgHaus <u>Lancaster</u> The Tally Ho 201 W. Orange St. (717) 299-0661 Daily: 8p - 2a <u>Reading</u> Red Star Saloon 11 S. 10th. St. (610) 375-4116 Wed-Sat: 9p-2a <u>Spring Grove</u> Altland's Ranch 8505 Orchard Rd. (717) 225-4479 Fri, Sat 8p-2a AltlandsRanch.com
			Panzer Calendar	
			HEALTH ACA: AIDS Community Alliance of S. Cetnral PA 401 Division St #100 Harrisburg, PA 17110 (800) 867-1550 ACA-PA.com HIV/AIDS: Caring Together (CarTog) HIV Care Collaboration (717) 851-3643 familyfirstthealth .org/ctprogram .html Lambda AA Gay & Lesbian AA Friends Meeting House 6th and Herr St Harrisburg Jim H. 717-379-3828	
			POLITICAL Rainbow EquUality Advocates Lay Led Ministry of the Unitarian Church of Hbg AlannaBerger@ Hotmail.com Stonewall Dmcrats CapitalStonewall.org	
			SOCIAL Volley Ball Baughman Memor United Methodist New Cumberland Jim Akers 717-233-3172 PA Womens Circle PAWomens Circle.com Pennsmen Pennsmen.org Reading Railmen www.reading Railmen.com	
Mon Apr 14	Club XS 9:00 PM Weekly Trivia Night			

South Central Pennsylvania

YOUTH

Common Roads
221 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA
Common Roads
538 W. Chestnut St.
Lancaster, PA
(717) 920-9534
Common
^Roads.org

Alvernia GSA
400 St. Bernardine
Reading, PA 19607
brou3391
^@alvernia.edu

S.A.L.E.
Student Advocating
LGBT Equality
Shippensburg
ship.edu/~msa
^SALE.htm

Planned Parenthtd
of North East PA
SPECTRUM
LGBT Youth Spprt
48 South 4th St.
2nd Flr
Reading, PA
PPNEP.org

COMMUNITY

LGBT Center
Coalition
200 North 3rd St
8th Floor
P.O.Box 678
Harrisburg
PA 17108
CentralPaLgbt
Center.org

Rainbow Rose
Community
(717) 380-1071
RainbowRose
^Community.org

PAGEANT

Miss Gay America
MissGay
^America.com

Miss Drag All-Star
Syrena Daniels
(610) 573-8315
P.O. Box 463
Shillington,
PA 19607
MissDrag
^AllStar.com

SPIRITUAL

MCC: Metropolitan
Community Church
MCCotS
2973 Jefferson St.
Harrisburg, PA
(717) 236-7387
MCCofTheSpirit.org

UCH: Unitarian
Chch of Harrisburg
1280 Clover Lane
Harrisburg, PA
(717) 564-4761
HarrisburgUU.org

St. Michael Lutheran
118 State St.
Harrisburg, PA
home.paonline.com
^stmike

MCC Vision of Hope
130 East Main St.
(MCCVH)
Mountville, PA
(717) 285-9070
visionofhope MCC.org

Universalist Church
of Lancaster (UUCL)
538 W. Chestnut St.
Lancaster, PA
(717) 393-1733
interweave.lancaster
^pa@gmail.com

PRIDE

Pride CP
Pride Festival of
Central PA
Harrisburg
^Pride.org

Reading Pride
ReadingPride
Celebration.com

Lancaster Pride
LancasterPride
^2008.org

BUSINESS

Central Pennsylvania
Gay & Lesbian
Chamber of
Commerce
3111 North Front St
Harrisburg, PA
(717) 213-5034
CPGLCC.org

North Central Pennsylvania

Wed Apr 2

Club Z
10:00 PM Weekly
Karaoke
Penn State Pride
12:00 PM
Pride Week Rally
Old Main
Penn State Pride

7:00 PM
HUB Auditorium
Tara's Crossing
a play by J. Solomon
Penn State Pride
9:00 PM
Webster's Cafe
Coffee Super Social
128 S. Allen St.

Thu Apr 3

Rumors
10:00 PM Weekly
Karaoke
Penn State Pride
7:00 PM
112 Walker Building
Greeks & XXXX
\$100,000 Pyramid

Fri Apr 4

Club Z
10:00 PM Weekly
Karaoke
CCs
10:00 PM
Karaoke
Rumors
Weekly: 18+

Penn State Pride
10:00pm Ritehour
Free HIV Testing
Penn State Pride
10:00pm Alumni Hall
Drag Show

Fri Apr 4 cont.

Penn State Pride
11:59 PM
Chumley's
Guest Bartenders

Sat Apr 5

Club Z
Babylon
All Male Review
Female Strippers
Penn State Pride
12:00 PM
Chumley's
Saturday Specials
Penn State Pride
7:00 PM
Allen St. Gates
Candlelight Vigil

Sat Apr 5 cont.

Miss Gay America
10:00 PM
@ CCs
Miss Gay
NorthEast
Benefit Show

Sun Apr 6

Penn State Pride
9:00 PM
Chumley's & Indigo
Heaven and Hell

Tue Apr 8

Club Z
7:30 AM
The Actors Group...
DOUBT
April 8,9,10,15,16,17
Opening

Wed Apr 9

Club Z
10:00 PM Weekly
Karaoke

Thu Apr 10

Rumors
10:00 PM Weekly
Karaoke

Fri Apr 11

Club Z
10:00 PM Weekly
Karaoke
Rumors
Weekly
18 and Over

Sat Apr 12

Club Z
11:30 PM
Blaize

Wed Apr 16

Club Z
10:00 PM Weekly
Karaoke
Thu Apr 17
Rumors
10:00 PM Weekly
Karaoke

Bars/Clubs

Sunbury

CCs
555 Klinger Rd.
(570) 286-6022
Thu, Fri, Sat: 8p-2a
Sun: 3:00p - ?
MySpace:
^OfficialCCsBar

Williamsport

Club Z
321 Pine St.
Tue-Sat 6p - 2a
(570) 322-6900
clubzbar.com

State College

Chumley's
108 W. College
(814) 238-4446

Altoona

Rumors
(814) 941-0803
Rumors
^Altoona.com
Escapade
2523 union Ave.
(814) 946-8195

Pride Penn State
PrideCommitment
^Ceremony.com

Panzee Calendar

Bar/Club

Pride

Church

Business

Community

Student

Art, Music,
Theater

Political

Health &
Fitness

Pageant

Social

Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley

Wed Apr 2	Sun Apr 6	Thu Apr 10	Sat Apr 12	Wed Apr 16
Stonewall 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke	Stonewall 10:30 PM Weekly Karaoke	Diamonz 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke	GLOSS @Lee Gibben's Home: Game Night	Stonewall 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke
MCCLV 7:00 PM Weekly Tejes Women's Haven 7:00 PM Weekly GLBTAQI Youth Meeting Ages 14-18	MCCLV 9:00 AM Weekly Men's Breakfast Perkins on Lehigh St Allentwn MCCLV 10:30 AM Weekly	Pool League Stonewall Weekly 18+ GLOSS:Racquetball 7:30 PM Weekly @Lehigh Valley Racquet & Fitness Allentown Club 6th and Union sts.	Sun Apr 13 Stonewall 10:30 PM Weekly Karoke MCCLV 9:00 AM Weekly Men's Breakfast Perkins on Lehigh St Allentwn	MCCLV 7:00 PM Weekly Tejes Women's Haven 7:00 PM Weekly GLBTAQI Youth Meeting Ages 14-18
Thu Apr 3	Sunday Service 10:30 am, 6:00 pm Choir Practice After Service	Fri Apr 11		Thu Apr 17
Diamonz 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Pool League	MCCLV 1stWeek Property Committee	TakeoverLV 6:30 PM	Sun Apr 13 MCCLV	Diamonz 7:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Pool League
Stonewall Weekly 18 and over	Sisterhood 5:00 PM	Bacio Italian Restaurant/Lnge GLOSS 8:45pm @Playdrome 15th St. & Summer Allentown	10:30 AM Weekly Sunday Service 10:30 am, 6:00 pm Choir Practice After Service	Stonewall Weekly 18 and over
GLOSS:Racquetball 7:30 PM Weekly @Lehigh Valley Racquet & Fitness Allentown Club 6th and Union sts.	@Diamonz		Mon Apr 14 MCCLV 7:00 PM 2ndWeek Board Meeting	GLOSS:Racquetball 7:30 PM Weekly @Lehigh Valley Racquet & Fitness Allentown Club 6th and Union sts.
Sat Apr 5	Wed Apr 9 Stonewall 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke	Sat Apr 12 Stonewall 7:00 PM 2ndWeek Pinochle		
GLOSS: Racquetball 8:00 AM Weekly @Lehigh Valley Racquet & Fitness Allentown Club 6th and Union sts. LV Bears 8:00 PM 1stWeek @Stonewall	MCCLV 7:00 PM Weekly Tejes Women's FACT 7:00 PM 2ndWeek Fundraising Meeting Haven 7:00 PM Weekly GLBTAQI Youth Meeting Ages 14-18	GLOSS:Racquetball 8:00 AM Weekly @Lehigh Valley Racquet & Fitness Allentown Club 6th and Union sts. Renaiss. Tran 8:00 PM 2ndWeek @Stonewall	<h3>North East Pennsylvania</h3> <div> <div>Wed Apr 2</div> <div>Fri Apr 11</div> </div>	
			Wed Apr 2	Fri Apr 11
			12 Penny 10:00 PM Weekly Karaoke	Twist Weekly All Age Dance
			Fri Apr 4	Sat Apr 12
			Twist	Miss Drag All-Star

North East Pennsylvania

BARS	SOCIAL	HEALTH	ALL AGES DANCE
<u>Allentown</u>	Takeover LV <u>Takeoverlv.com</u>	Fighting AIDS Continuously Together(FACT) 245 N. 12th Street Allentown, PA (610) 820-5519 <u>Factlv.org</u>	Wilkes-Barre
Stonewall 28 North 10th St. (610) 432-0215 Tue-Sun: 7p-2a <u>TheStonewall.com</u>	Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) <u>GLOSS.org</u>		Sat Apr 5
Candida's 247 N. 12th St. Allentown, PA (610) 434-3071	LV Bears Lehigh Valley Bears		Twist 1stWeek All Age Dance Leathermen @Red Star All AMCC BarNight
<u>Bethlehem</u>	PRIDE FESTIVAL	SPIRITUAL	Mon Apr 7
Diamondz 1913 West Broad (610) 865 1028 <u>diamondz.net</u>	Pride GLV Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley 1101 W. Hamilton Allentown (610) 770-8200 <u>PrideGLV.org</u>	MCCLV: Metropol. Community Church of the Lehigh Valley 930 N. 4th St Allentown, PA (610) 709-8800 <u>mccly.org</u>	12 Penny Weekly Free Pool
YOUTH	COMMUNITY	MUSIC & ARTS	Mon Apr 14
Haven Youth Group Universalist Church 424 Center Street Bethlehem Havenuyouthgroup <u>A@hotmail.com</u> <u>uucvlpa.org/haven</u>	PA Diversity Nwk P.O. Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 (610)-HELP-123 <u>PADiversity.org</u>	Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus (610) 366-3320 <u>LVGMC.org</u>	12 Penny Weekly Free Pool
			Wed Apr 16
			12 Penny 10:00 PM Weekly Karaoke
			Thu Apr 17
			Pride NE 6:30 PM 3rdWeek Monthly Dinner
			HEALTH
			Caring Communities for AIDS (CCA)
			301A West Third St.
			Berwick, PA 18603
			570-752-5655
			<u>Myspace:</u>
			<u>A CaringCommunities</u>
			<u>AForAIDS</u>

North East PA

Baltimore Maryland

	Wed Apr 2	Thu Apr 3	Sun Apr 6 cont.	Wed Apr 9
BARS Wilkes-Barre Twist Fox Ridge Plaza 1170 Highway 315 (570) 825-7300 Mon-Sat 8:00p-2:00a Sun 7p-10p twistbarpa.com Moosic 12 Penny Saloon 3501 Birney Ave (570) 941-0444 Daily 6p - 2a 12PennySaloon.com Edwardsville Michael's Lounge 429 Main St. (570) 287-9300 Tue-Sun 7p-2a MichaelsLounge.com	Grand Central 7:00 PM Weekly Manicures & Martinis	GLCCB 7:30 PM Weekly Women of Color Room 201	GLCCB 11:30 AM Weekly Narcotics Anonym. Room 201	Jay's on Read Weekly: Live Piano Phoenix Weekly: Free Pool
	PW's Sports Bar 8:00 PM Weekly Free Pool	GLCCB 5:00 PM Weekly HIV & STD Testing	GLCCB 2:00 PM Weekly Pilates: Body Cntrl	GLCCB 7:15 PM Weekly Yoga, Beginners Room 201
	Hippo 8:30 PM Weekly Bingo GLCCB Benefit	GLCCB 8:30 PM Weekly AA: Room 201	GLCCB 6:00 PM Weekly Yoga for Immune	GLCCB 5:00 PM Weekly HIV & STD Testing
	Grand Central 9:00 PM Weekly Flashback Disco & Regro Baltimore Eagle Weekly 80's Tunes & Trivia	Fri Apr 4 Hippo Weekly Drag Show Hippo Weekly Karaoke	Mon Apr 7 PW's Sports Bar 8:00 PM Weekly Prime Time Baltimore Eagle Weekly Uniform Night	Thu Apr 10 PW's Sports Bar 8:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Drinkery 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke
	Jay's on Read Weekly Live Piano Phoenix Weekly: Free Pool GLCCB 6:30 pm Tax Planning	Jay's on Read Weekly Live Piano Phoenix Weekly Pool Tournament GLCCB	Grand Central Weekly Karaoke Hippo Weekly Free Pool GLCCB	Karaoke Grand Central 9:00 PM Weekly Ladies Night Baltimore Eagle Weekly Bear Chest Night
	GLCCB 7:15 PM Weekly Yoga, Beginners Room 201	7:00 PM 1stWeek The Claque Theatrical Society	8:30 PM Weekly AA: Room 201	Coconuts Café Weekly Karaoke
	GLCCB 7:30 PM 1stWeek Womb Room 201 Women's Poem & Song GLCCB 5:00 PM Weekly HIV & STD Testing	Sat Apr 5 PW's Sports Bar 8:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Phoenix 10:00 PM Weekly Drag Show Phoenix 10:00 PM 1stWeek Mr Club Phoenix Maestro	Tue Apr 8 Baltimore Eagle Weekly T-Shirt Night Coconuts Café Weekly Wings & Free Pool Grand Central Weekly Karaoke Introduction to 6:30 PM Weekly Sign Language	Hippo Weekly Hip Hop Night Jay's on Read Weekly Live Piano Phoenix Weekly SuperHero Night GLCCB
	THU Apr 3 PW's Sports Bar 8:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Drinkery 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke	Jay's on Read Weekly Live Piano GLCCB 12:30 PM Weekly SIAM Meeting	Wed Apr 9 Grand Central 7:00 PM Weekly Manicures & Martinis PW's Sports Bar 8:00 PM Weekly Free Pool Hippo 8:30 PM Weekly Bingo GLCCB Benefit	7:30 PM Weekly Women of Color Room 201 GLCCB 5:00 PM Weekly HIV & STD Testing GLCCB 8:30 PM Weekly AA: Room 201
	Grand Central 9:00 PM Weekly Ladies Night Baltimore Eagle Weekly Bear Chest Night Coconuts Café Weekly Karaoke Hippo Weekly Hip Hop Night Jay's on Read Weekly Live Piano	Sun Apr 6 Phoenix 10:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Grand Central Weekly: Wet Underwear Contst GLCCB 3:00 PM 1stWeek Women's Coming Out. Room 202	Fri Apr 11 PW's Sports Bar 10:00 PM 2ndWeek Drag Show Hippo Weekly Drag Show Hippo Weekly Karaoke Jay's on Read Weekly Live Piano	Phoenix Weekly Pool Tournament
	Phoenix Weekly SuperHero Night	GLCCB 3:30 PM Weekly Yoga Begin \$9	Baltimore Eagle Weekly 80's Tunes & Trivia	

Panzeer Calendar

SOCIAL NEPA Leathermen nepa-leathermen.com Pride NE: Pride of Northeast PA 156 Franklin St. 3rd Flr Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 PrideOfNEPA.org
COMMUNITY Rainbow Alliance 512 Northampton 218 Kingston, PA 18704 (570) 606-4410 GayNEPA.com

Baltimore Maryland

Fri Apr 11	Mon Apr 14	Wed Apr 16	Thu Apr 17 cont	Thu Apr 17 cont.
Phoenix 2ndWeek Klassik Retro	Baltimore Eagle Weekly Uniform Night	GLCCB 7:30 PM 3rdWeek Womb	Baltimore Eagle Weekly Bear Chest Night	GLCCB 5:00 PM Weekly HIV & STD Testing
Baltimore Eagle Leather Sir & Boy Contest GLCCB 7:30 PM 2ndWeek Gay Father's Room 201	Grand Central Weekly Karaoke Hippo Weekly Free Pool GLCCB 7:30 PM 2ndWeek Board of Trustees Meeting Rm 202	Room 201 Women's Poem/Song GLCCB 5:00 PM Weekly HIV & STD Testing	Coconuts Café Weekly Karaoke Hippo Weekly Hip Hop Night Jay's on Read Weekly Live Piano	GLCCB 8:30 PM Weekly AA: Room 201
Sat Apr 12	PW's Sports Bar 8:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Phoenix 10:00 PM Weekly Drag Show Phoenix 10:00 PM 2ndWeek Drag Show Jay's on Read Weekly: Live Piano	PW's Sports Bar 8:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Drinkery 9:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Grand Central 9:00 PM Weekly Ladies Night	Phoenix Weekly SuperHero Night GLCCB 7:30 PM Weekly Women of Color Room 201	COMMUNITY SOCIAL PRIDE HEALTH Gay & Lesbian Community Ctr of Baltimore (GLCCB) (410) 837-5445 241 West Chase St. Baltimore, MD glccb.org
Baltimore Eagle Leather Sir & Boy Contest GLCCB 12:30 PM Weekly SIAM Meeting GLCCB 8:00 PM 2ndWeek Gender Identity GLCCB 6:30 PM Weekly AA:Room 201	Coconuts Café Weekly Wings & Free Pool Grand Central Weekly: Karaoke Introduction to 6:30 PM Weekly Sign Language GLCCB 5:00 PM Weekly HIV & STD Testing	Hippo One W. Eager @Charles St. (410) 576-0018 Baltimore MD clubhippo.com MySpace: clubhippo	BARS & CLUBS Drinkery (410) 225-3100 203-207 W. Read St. Baltimore, MD Daily: 11a-2a drinkery.net Jay's on Read 225 W. Read St. Baltimore, MD JaysOnRead.biz (410) 225-0188 Gallery Bar & Restaurant (410) 539-6965 1735 Maryland Ave. Baltimore, MD Rowan Tree (410) 468-0550 1633 S. Charles St. Baltimore, MD TheRowanTree.net Club Bunn's 608 W. Lexington St. Baltimore, MD (410) 234-2866 Mon-Sun 3p-2a	Club Orpheus 1003 E. Pratt St. Baltimore, MD (410) 276-5599 Fri-Sat 9p-2a Quest (410) 563-2617 3607 Fleet St. Baltimore, MD Daily 4p-2a QuestBarBalt.com Coconuts Café (410) 383-6064 3111 W. Madison St. Baltimore, MD coconutscafe.com Blue Parrot 5860 Belair Rd. Baltimore, MD (410) 254-3785 10a-2a BlueParrotBar.com
Sun Apr 13	Phoenix 10:00 PM Weekly Karaoke Grand Central Weekly: Wet Underwear Cnts Baltimore Eagle Leather Sir & Boy Contest GLCCB 3:30 PM Weekly Yoga Begin \$9 GLCCB 11:30 AM Weekly Narcotics Anonym. Room 201 GLCCB 2:00 PM Weekly Pilates: Body Cntrl GLCCB 6:00 PM Weekly Yoga for Immune	Grand Central 7:00 PM Weekly Manicures & Martinis PW's Sports Bar 8:00 PM Weekly Free Pool Hippo 8:30 PM Weekly Bingo GLCCB Benefit Grand Central 9:00 PM Weekly Flashback Disco & Regro Baltimore Eagle Weekly 80's Tunes & Trivia Jay's on Read Weekly Live Piano Phoenix Weekly Free Pool GLCCB 7:15 PM Weekly Yoga, Beginners Room 201	Grand Central 1001 North Charles Baltimore, MD (410) 752-7133 CentralStationPub.com Baltimore Eagle 2022 N. Charles St. Baltimore, MD (443) 524-3289 Mon-Fri 3p-2a Sat,Sun 2p-2a TheBaltimoreEagle.com Leons of Baltimore (410) 539-4993 870 Park Ave Baltimore, MD 21201 Daily: 4p-2a LeonsBaltimore.tripod.com Phoenix 1 W. Biddle St. Baltimore, MD (410) 837-3906 baltimore-phoenix.net	QuestBarBalt.com PW's Sports Bar & Grill (301) 498-4840 9855 Washington Blvd N. Suite N. Laurel, MD 20723 PWsSportsBar.com
Mon Apr 14	PW's Sports Bar 8:00 PM Weekly Prime Time			

West Maryland

Wed Apr 2

Wed Apr 9 cont.

New Light MCC
6:00 PM Weekly
6:00 pm pot luck
7:00 Worship
7:30 Bible Study

Tini Lounge
7:00 PM Weekly
Happy Hour Club

Tini Lounge
7:00 PM Weekly
Happy Hour Club

Thu Apr 10

Deer Park Lodge
8:00 PM Weekly
Karaoke

BARS

Deer Park Lodge
21614 National Pike
Boonsboro, MD
(301) 797-7672
Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun
DeerParkLodge.net

SERVICE

Alcoholics Anonym.
40 W. Church St.
Hagerstown, MD
aa.org

SOCIAL

Community Triangle
40 W. Church St.
Hagerstown, MD
(301) 733-1465
community.triangle.org

Thu Apr 3

Deer Park Lodge
8:00 PM Weekly
Karaoke

New Light MCC
7:30 PM 1stWeek
Emergent Church
Worship

Fri Apr 11

Miss Gay America
Miss Baltimore
Benefit

Sat Apr 12

New Light MCC
9:30 AM Weekly

SPIRITUAL

New Light MCC
40 W. Church St
Hagerstown, MD
(301) 797-5698
NewLightMCC.com

HEALTH

Positive Influence
40 W. Church St.
Hagerstown, MD
positiveinfluence.org

Fri Apr 4

Deer Park Lodge
1stWeek
Ghetto & Glamour
Show

Sat Apr 5

New Light MCC
9:30 AM Weekly
Food & Friends

New Light MCC
11:00 AM

Spring Cleaning
Party
Hagerstown TGs
7:00 PM 2ndWeek

MUSIC, ART THEATER

Reel Awakenings
The Maryland
Theatre
21 S. Potomac St.
Hagerstown, MD
(301) 305-1845
ReelAwakenings.org

New Image
12 Steps
40 W. Church St
Hagerstown, MD
na.org
Live & Let Live(AA)
Presbyterian Church
220 E. Washington

Hagerstown TGs

Transgender
TerriLeeTG@yahoo.com

Out For Fun
War Memorial Park
Martinsburg, WV
TimHottt@Nationwide.com

Tini Lounge
Happy Hour Club
The Gormet Goat
41 N. Potomac St.
Hagerstown, MD
(301) 790-2343

New Image
6:00 PM Weekly
@New Light MCC
Narcotics Anonym.

Sun Apr 6

Deer Park Lodge
1stWeek
Ladies Night

New Light MCC
10:30 AM Weekly
Sunday Worship

New Light MCC
12:30 PM 1stWeek
Insight Meditation

Sun Apr 13

Deer Park Lodge
2ndWeek
Deer Park's
Got Talent

New Light MCC
10:30 AM Weekly
Sunday Worship

Rainbow
1:00 PM 2ndWeek
Connections

Book Club

Mon Apr 14

Out For Fun
Weekly
Dinner Out

Mon Apr 7

Out For Fun
Weekly Dinner Out
Dinner Out

Tue Apr 15

Alcoholics Anonym.
6:30 PM Weekly
@New Light MCC
Positive Influence
6:30 PM Weekly
HIV/AIDS Support

Tue Apr 8

Alcoholics Anonym.
6:30 PM Weekly
@New Light MCC
Positive Influence
6:30 PM Weekly
HIV/AIDS Support

Wed Apr 16

New Light MCC
6:00 PM Weekly
6:00 pm pot luck
7:00 Worship
7:30 Bible Study
Tini Lounge
7:00 PM Weekly
Happy Hour Club

Wed Apr 9

New Light MCC
6:00 PM Weekly
6:00 pm pot luck
7:00 Worship
7:30 Bible Study

To add your listing
or organization
contact

Panzee®

PanzeePress.com

or (717) 564-2477

(no fee)

Due two Mondays
prior to issue date.

See an Extended
BGLQT Calendar at
PanzeePress.com

Vision Of Hope

Metropolitan Community Church

Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC) celebrated Easter Sunday along with all the other churches across the land. MCC Vision of Hope in Mountville, PA combined their usual abundance of song, dance, and joy with celebration.

Pictured right Senior Pastor, Reverend Deb Coggin, provided a sermon which emphasized, "Most of us live in our circumstances rather than in Christ", meaning instead of carrying with us the joy, celebration and spirit we find in church, we live within our daily troubles. Easter is the celebration of moving from the tomb into resurrection. Pastor Deb preached "Why hang onto the tomb when we have the power of resurrection?"



The "Movements of Praise" dance time strutted down the aisle before dancing in front of the pews and filling the church with the spirit of giving.



Scott Callaham



Left: Clergy Candidate Mykal Slack, with Reverend Staff Pastor Jen Glass, prepare for communion. They offer the bread and the cup, the body of blood of Christ, as a gift for anybody to partake regardless if you are from this church, another church, or no church at all.

Right: Prayers of healing and "Resurrection Power" are given with love, embrace, and warmth.



Vision of Hope MCC Choir has a full and diverse set of singers. They pull the Lord in through their hearts then share, with all, the spirit through their voice and song. Choir director Jenn DeWalt.

AYE



Michael J. Stack (D)
(717) 787-9608
stack@pasenate.com



J. Barry Stout (D)
(717) 787-1463
stout@pasenate.com



Maggie Gallagher from the National Organization for Marriage, supporter of SB 1250, started the morning by getting to the heart of the matter. She claimed marriage is about children and future generations to reproduce and continue humanity. She stated that, "Our government needs SB1250 to send a message that marriage is a sacred ritual. Such a legislation act will assist in the communication to young and future families that they need to work to maintain such a sacred responsibility. By allowing lesbians and gays to get married, using marriage as a tool other than for procreation, the state sends a message that marriage is not all that sacred, and it doesn't need to be held up to high standards."

Stacey L. Sobel, speaking for Equality Advocates Pennsylvania and Value All Families Coalition, detailed many reasons why SB 1250 should not be approved and rebutted many points made by SB 1250 supporters. Just some of her points were as follows:

- Not a single example can be found of how any married couple will lose their rights or be harmed if this amendment were not to pass.
- Constitutional amendments have been a source for protections of individual rights. This proposal takes the reverse tactic by denying rights and protections. Enshrining discrimination in our state's constitution is downright un-American.
- If SB 1250 were to pass, it could prohibit state and local legislatures from passing legislation providing for benefits to same-sex and opposite-sex unmarried employees.
- Supporters of the amendment have stated that its text was drafted in accordance with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court decision in *Delvin v. City of Philadelphia*. One of the issues in *Devlin* was whether domestic partner benefits for city employees violated the state's Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which limits marriage to a man and a woman. While the Court ruled that DOMA did not prohibit these benefits, it is quite unclear what the impact of this Constitutional Amendment would have on the Court's decision. It would definitely change the legal analysis, and the end result is not guaranteed.
- The current Pennsylvania Defense of Marriage Act is silent on the subject of civil unions and domestic partnerships. The proposed constitutional amendment goes well beyond the current law, and bars recognition of civil unions. Thus, it is absolutely inaccurate to say that the amendment does not change the law, as some supporters of SB 1250 have indicated.
- In a Susquehanna Polling and Research poll conducted in November 2007, sixty-five percent of Pennsylvanians stated that they support civil unions, while only twenty-seven percent opposed them. This support for civil unions is consistent with the position that the Pennsylvania Senate took in June of 2006.
- The supporters of this constitutional amendment have a history of bringing lawsuits and shopping for activist judges to deprive lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people of the rights that have been given to them through the legislative process. Many of us are not entirely confident that all of the judges in this state will consistently find that this sweeping amendment does not affect domestic partner or domestic violence issues. In fact, I would not be surprised to see some judicial candidates in certain parts of the state run campaigns based on promises to strictly enforce the marriage amendment.
- People who are being deprived of rights under this Constitutional Amendment will file lawsuits. Both heterosexual and same-sex couples will seek the opinion of the courts to restore or interpret the impact of this legislation on their lives. This Constitutional Amendment will generate more litigation on the rights of unmarried couples.



On a more personal note, Sobel attempted to persuade the committee that her love for her long-term girlfriend, the love for her children, and the love of any gay couple, does not hinder society or pose a threat to marriage. Sobel spoke of 638 rights & privileges that a couple acquires with a marriage certificate, which unmarried couples don't have. After Sobel's statement, Senator Gordner claimed that he can, and has, offered other forms of legal counseling and solutions to provide needed rights for gay couples. When Sobel tried to ask how much money the Senator might charge for the total amount of legal equivalence, Senator Greenleaf cut her off saying it was the committee that would be asking the questions. Sobel also pointed out that she has papers to provide legal rights in the hospital, and on the occasion she needed them, she had them. The attending nurse was surprised, since it was the first time in twenty-five years that the nurse met anybody with the foresight to bring such papers to the hospital while their loved one suffered immediate medical need.

Susan Frietsche, Senior Staff Attorney, of the Women's Law Project, gave her testimony. Susan's primary goal was to show that such wording would result in loss of protection for women and children. Here is just some of her testimony: "How will courts interpret and enforce powers of attorney, wills, cohabitation agreements, advance directives, and partnership agreements between two unmarried people if the state constitution forbids the recognition of any union that seeks to approximate marriage? ... A good example is the tragic farce that played out in Ohio when a differently worded but similarly broad constitutional amendment was adopted there. ... unmarried batterers argued that Ohio's protection from abuse laws could not be applied to the unmarried partners of victims, because that would confer a status equivalent to marriage upon them. Several trial courts agreed with this argument and started denying protection from abuse orders to unmarried battered women and throwing out criminal charges against unmarried perpetrators. While the appellate courts ultimately reversed this interpretation of Ohio's marriage amendment, until the courts stepped in, women suffered grave danger and terrible injustice. It is not possible to predict whether a similar result would occur in Pennsylvania."

Frietsche's testimony also pointed out a Pittsburgh ordinance providing benefits to domestic partners who could intend their relationship to be "the functional equivalent of marriage." She noted it was the same language used in bill SB 1250, and said it was "entirely possible, even quite likely, that Pittsburgh's domestic partner benefits would be determined to be unconstitutional." Senator Costa, representing Pittsburgh, confirmed her findings. Senator Greenleaf was evidently taken aback, when the other strong advocate for SB 1250, Senator Gordner, admitted that this Pittsburgh legislation may need to be revoked, and existing benefits would be taken away. After Frietsche's testimony, Greenleaf ceased his persistent questioning as to what rights will be lost.

Through questions from the senate, the most fearsome point, raised by Frietsche, was that if a couple sought out all rights provided within marriage, including the rights to be involved in medical decisions, and first in line for inheritances, that the accumulation of all things equal would result in a union that's the equivalent of marriage. An attorney could attempt to dismiss any one, or all of those separate legally binding processes by saying they amount to a functional equivalent of marriage and is therefore against the Pennsylvania Constitution. This point was also made clear when Senator White, who said she was for the defense of marriage, asked how many pieces of equality would it take before a person's relationship became functionally equivalent to marriage.

The 2nd to last statement was provided by Michael J. McMonagle, from Pro-Life Coalition of Pennsylvania. This man sounded like a street preacher damning homosexuals to hell. "Those homosexuals will stop at nothing to prove themselves equal." Somehow, according to McMonagle's point of view, this related to murdering unborn children.

The last speaker brought the issue to a close as well as the first speaker started off the day. Jessica Feerman, from the Juvenile Law Center, was concerned mostly with finding homes for foster children as she shared that gay families provide great homes. Such legislation would reduce homes that provide for needy children. Her last sentence was very personal. Jessica revealed that she was raised by a gay parent, and she is now married with her own child. With her voice choking, Jessica was able to put her love and gratitude for her gay parent into Pennsylvania's legal record. She said that if she could provide, unto her child, just a fraction of the love and support she received from her gay parent, and then she knows she will have raised her child well. Greenleaf caught the emotion, as his own eyes noticeably watered.

Besides the verbal testimony, many statements were emailed to the senate. Most noted very little time between notice of the hearing and the actual hearing.



Literature provided by supporters of the bill included two pieces: A spreadsheet showing a decline in Pennsylvania births between 1960 and dropping to half in 2005, while the percentage of out-of-wedlock births increased from 4% to 25%. The second written form of supportive documentation was a quote from Philadelphia Mayor Rendell: "We're dying. Forget all the good things I've done; Philadelphia is dying. It's happened a lot more slowly since I took office, but we're dying."

The opposition had several letters, each with facts and examples, directly related to why SB 1250 should not pass. Two expressive statements are as follows:

Larry Frankel, State Legislative Counsel, ACLU Washington Legislative Office, and Andy Hoover, Legislative Assistant, of the ACLU of Pennsylvania wrote, "We believe that this proposed constitution amendment, as drafted, is confusing and ambiguous and will certainly lead to lawsuits. A comparison ... of other states will make it abundantly clear that this proposal will lead to unpredictable and undesired results." Their testimony went on to cite many examples of serious problems raised in other states due to vague terminology and loss of existing rights, protections and privileges.

Anthony C. Infanti, a law professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, submitted written testimony as well. Anthony warns that the bill is far more damaging than just defining marriage as one man and one woman. His testimony repeats that this bill could "dictate results that no legislator should intend – let us consider its effects on the validity of powers of attorney and wills." His testimony went on to cite how exactly such events would take place.



The Vote

The vote on SB 1250 was held the next morning, leaving citizens to wonder if there was time for the senators to review, and research all the material that was presented the day before. Prior to the vote, Senators Earll, Costa, Orie, Brown, Rafferty and White all protested that the bill has not been given enough time for debate. Greenleaf made a final reply saying that the facts were clear and he couldn't see how any further information or consideration could alter any of the Senator's decisions.

There was confusion within the seats of the senate regarding possible directions the bill could take from that point in time. They seemed to agree that they wanted more hearings for the bill, but there was limited time because of election advertising constraints starting in June, and those supporting the bill didn't want to wait until January. Senator Scarnati offered that the Appropriations Committee agreed to hold hearings during the time allotted for their review of financial considerations. Senator Earll proposed to table the bill until more hearings could be held. A vote for the proposal failed, and then some senators admitted they were confused as to whether they were voting to table the bill after their own committee passed it through, or before. Another similar vote for more hearings also failed. Senator Costa suggested that this was a judiciary decision and should not be passed to the appropriations committee, since there were minimal financial considerations. A final vote to "report the bill out" won ten to four. Some senators thought the vote had a stipulation that the Appropriations Committee would hold hearings. "Report the bill out" means that the judiciary committee said "OK" to the bill, and now it's on the way to a senate vote.



Judiciary Committee Senator's Vote:

Aye: *Senators Boscola, Gorner, Greenleaf, Orie, Piccola, Rafferty, Scarnati, Stack, Stout, and White*

Nay: *Senators Brown, Costa, Earll, and Fontana*

Senator White made objections during both the hearing and the vote regarding the rushed schedule of the bill, as well as to the vague terminology. She specifically asked how many items does it take to add up to a functional equivalence of marriage. Regardless, she still voted Aye.

Senator Greenleaf repeated the question: "Will the bill remove existing rights?" Due to an obvious conflict with a Pittsburgh ordinance providing benefits to those with a functional equivalence to marriage, the answer is "most likely". Furthermore, many expert witnesses cited examples from other states and proposed theories of how this bill will take away existing rights and benefits. The public is left to wonder why Greenleaf repeated the question so often, and then did not vote in accordance with the answer.

Senator Stout emphasized during the vote, while debating time needed to review SB 1250, that they needed time for decisions regarding the state budget. Rather than putting off SB 1250 until there was time to give it needed attention, he voted to pass it though without the acknowledged, needed review.

Additional attorney Testimony for the Bill

Randy Wenger, Chief Counsel, Pennsylvania Family Institute produced a written statement in support of the bill. Wenger's written statement discusses the Pittsburgh ordinance, which provides for benefits for people who can intend a "functional equivalent" of marriage. Wenger writes, "If what Pittsburgh had done was objectively [allow] the functional equivalent of marriage, it would already be invalid for the reasons argued in the Devlin case. But nobody is going to bring a challenge that the ordinance is the functional equivalent. The ordinance simply states that those entering a domestic partnership must have the subjective intent of entering the "functional equivalent" of marriage. Nothing more. When the Pennsylvania Supreme Court has already looked at a similar ordinance and said the language is not crucial (aka "marital status") but what it objectively does is what is important (aka employment related benefits are not the functional equivalent of marriage), Pittsburgh's ordinance will be completely unaffected."

Nobody, not Randy Wenger, nor supporters or those opposed to SB 1250 is able to present a definite distinction between the civil unions that the bill is designed to protect, and the domestic partnerships the bill is designed to allow. When comparing the Pittsburgh ordinance to SB 1250, Wegner seems to suggest that on one hand "functional equivalence to marriage" is allowed, but on the other hand "functional equivalence to marriage" is not allowed. It depends on the objectivity of the legislation. Wegner leaves the implication that the courts can determine this objectively.

Thoughts on SB 1250

By Alanna Berger

As a straight person, many folks are confused as to why I believe so strongly in marriage equality for gays and lesbians. After all, when my husband asked me to marry him 14 years ago, I said no. I saw marriage as one of the chief institutions of a patriarchal society in which women were subjugated and treated as property. After my first marriage ended disastrously, I didn't want any part of another one.

Blaise was sympathetic to my concerns, and we investigated what was required to provide the same protections that marriage provided – after all, we had exes, children, parents and siblings who might question any documents we came up with, and then there was the cost – almost \$1,000. So as unromantic as it sounds, we took the easy way out – we publicly declared our spiritual commitment to each other at the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, and we got married according to the laws of Pennsylvania for the legal rights.

I see gay and lesbian couples making the same spiritual commitment to each other that Blaise and I made to each other, except I get the legal rights and they don't. Even when they get the legal documents, there is still inequality. Since I left my "day job", I'm covered under Blaise's health care. Many gays and lesbians cover their partners through their employers according to domestic partner benefits, but they pay taxes on the health care benefits. We don't. When the time comes, Blaise or I will inherit whatever property we've accumulated, just as a gay or lesbian will – provided they paid for an ironclad will – but the surviving partner will pay inheritance tax. Blaise or I won't. So much for the argument that gays and lesbians can get documents that provide them with the same rights heterosexual couples have!

What angers me most is the fact that our government leaders are arrogant enough to believe that because they are adding a sentence that defines marriage to the constitution, the people of Pennsylvania will suddenly believe marriage is important. Why this will work as a constitutional amendment when it did not have any effect as a law is a mystery. I don't think Pennsylvania couples will look to our govern-

ment leaders when we have role models for marriage like Bill Clinton, Eliot Spitzer and Larry Craig. After all, it was Bill Clinton who signed the Federal Defense of Marriage Act a few years before the Monica Lewinsky



Alanna is the Executive Director of Silent Witnesses.

scandal. If he can't take marriage or the DOMA seriously, who will?

Ultimately, I'm tired of hearing that marriage is "under siege". That implies there is a group of people determined to destroy it. What we have today is a 50% heterosexual divorce rate – to me that says if marriage is under siege, it's by heterosexual couples who flagrantly demean the institution, who focus on the wedding day party and leave each other at the first sign of trouble. What we also have today is a very small minority of individuals – less than 3% of the population – who want to honor the institution of marriage not only by engaging in the time-honored vows to love, honor and cherish one another in sickness and health, for richer or poorer, which they currently can do in their own houses of worship, but most importantly, they want to take on the legal responsibilities that go along with it.

Marriage as a legal institution needs a major overhaul. But with an economy in a tailspin, an out-of-control war in Iraq, an environment on the verge of collapse, inadequate health care (that in particular denies married couples access to marital counseling that could save their marriages) and unequal educational opportunities, that critical review of marriage laws should be a low priority. Until we get around to it though, equality demands that gays and lesbians should be entitled to the same rights I have. I'm not asking for "gay marriage" – that implies something special. What I'm asking for is that gays and lesbians be treated no differently than my life partner and me.



Equality Advocates Pennsylvania will be honoring Alanna Berger with their Activist of the Year award during their 12th Anniversary Celebration on May 8th at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia. See EqualityPA.org or call (215) 731-1447 for tickets.



Equality Advocates Pennsylvania
formerly the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights

Take Action: Fight SB 1250 !!!

1) Read this issue of Panzee.

1a) If you have any questions, call Bolton (717) 564-2477.

2) Call your Senator and House Representative.

2a) To find out who they are, go to EqualityPA.org or call Bolton.

2b) Tell them you want them to vote "NO" on Senate Bill 1250

2c) Ask them how they will vote. If they say they plan to vote "Yes", ask them why. Attempt to discuss the issue with them and express your viewpoints and reasoning. If you don't know your viewpoints and reasons go back to step 1.

3) Vote Discriminating Legislators Out of Office Starting on April 22nd.

4) Join in demonstrations against the bill.

• **Lancaster:** Rainbow Rose Community is planning a demonstration on April 27th. Details to be announced.

RainbowRoseCommunity.org

• **Harrisburg:** Equality Advocates Pennsylvania is planning a meeting in the lobby of the state capitol. Details to be announced. EqualityPA.org

• **Lehigh Valley:** PA Diversity Network is considering picketing the office of Lisa Boscola. PADiversity.org

A) Supporters of SB 1250 say that we need a constitutional amendment such that courts can't overrule the legislation that marriage is one man and one woman.

B) They add the term "Functional Equivalent to Marriage" which, in theory, allows for domestic partner benefits since it uses the same language as the case Devlin v City of Philadelphia.

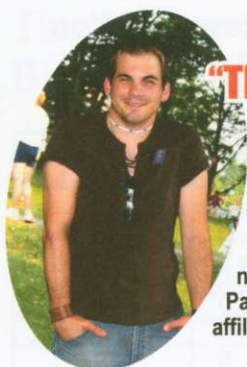
C) They also believe the language is strict enough to prevent Civil Unions.

D) Nowhere does anybody define the difference between civil unions and domestic partners. The courts will need to decide. See Step (A)

Senators' Forecasted Vote for SB 1250

Short Name	Dist- rict	Par- ty	Forecasted Vote
Armstrong	13	R	Yes
Baker	20	R	Yes
Boscola	18	D	Yes
Browne	16	R	No
Brubaker	36	R	Yes
Corman	34	R	Yes
Costa	43	D	No
Dinniman	19	D	Undecided
Earll	49	R	No
Eichelberger	30	R	Yes
Erickson	26	R	No
Ferlo	38	D	No
Folmer	48	R	Yes
Fontana	42	D	No
Fumo	1	D	No
Gordner	27	R	Yes
Greenleaf	12	R	Yes
Hughes	7	D	No
Kasunic	32	D	Yes
Kitchen	3	D	No
LaValle	47	D	Undecided
Logan	45	D	Undecided
Madigan	23	R	Yes
McIlhinney	10	R	No
Mellow	22	D	Not Available
Musto	14	D	Yes
O'Pake	11	D	Undecided
Orie	40	R	Yes
Piccola	15	R	Yes
Pileggi	9	R	Not Available
Pippy	37	R	Yes
Punt	33	R	Yes
Rafferty	44	R	Yes
Regola	39	R	Yes
Rhoades	29	R	Not Available
Robbins	50	R	Yes
Scarnati	25	R	Yes
Stack	5	D	Yes
Stout	46	D	Yes
Tartaglione	2	D	Not Available
Tomlinson	6	R	Not Available
Vance	31	R	Undecided
Washington	4	D	Not Available
Waugh	28	R	Yes
White, D	41	R	Yes
White, M	21	R	Yes
Williams, A	8	D	Not Available
Williams, C	17	D	No
Wonderling	24	R	Yes
Wozniak	35	D	Undecided

**Odd Numbered Districts
are up for Re-election**



Reading's "Theoretically"

The following article contains the personal thoughts of Daniel Kincade. The feelings, ideas, and opinions stated herein may not reflect those of the Panzee Press or any of its affiliates.

Hello everyone and welcome to the latest edition of everyone's favorite gossip column...theoretically. This will most likely be a short one since I haven't been out too awful much this month.

Syrena Daniels is now promoting Miss Drag All-Star Pennsylvania! This comes after the former promoter was suddenly dismissed. I am both excited and pleased to announce that Miss Drag All-Star Pennsylvania will be teaming with Reading's Pride Celebration to put on the first ever Miss Drag All-Star Reading Pride Pageant. This pageant will be an official preliminary to the MDAS Pennsylvania Pageant as well as represent Reading's Pride Celebration.

Speaking of the folks at Reading's Pride Celebration, my husband and I recently had an opportunity to sit in on one of their monthly meetings. From what I can tell, this year's

celebration will be even better and bigger than last years...theoretically.

Whitley Nycole DeAire' will be holding her show at The Red Star on April 19th. As can be said of all of Whitley's shows, I am sure this will be fun, entertaining, and busy...theoretically.

The Reading Railmen will be hosting "A Night to Remember the 50's" on April 19th at The Red Star. Even though I wasn't born in the 50's, I think this will be a fun night and am looking forward to seeing these guys and gals in their 50's hairstyles and clothing...if they still fit or have hair...theoretically.

I have some rumors I can report from around town and beyond. Now please keep in mind that these are just rumors and have no basis in fact...theoretically.

- First, I have heard the buzz about a certain "closed" establishment reopening. While I have been unable to confirm this, I think that some old "wounds" are not healed by time and reopening them might be a good idea...theoretically.

- Second, I have it on rather good authority that a certain former state pageant's promoter has switched wardrobes. Apparently she now has a thing for stripes...theoretically.

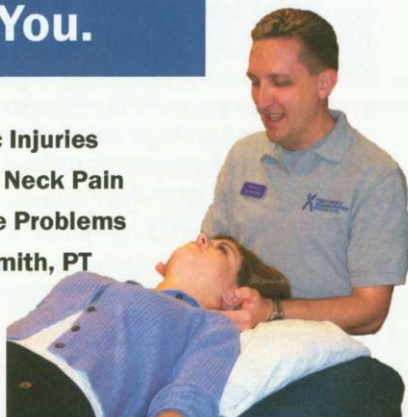
That's it for this time. I'm sorry it's so short, but I know it's left you wanting more...theoretically!

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.....STAR POEM.....

– No One –

*Why do you have such hate in your eyes,
Making judgment; scratching out my cries.
Screaming;*

calling;

pain I have. I hold out my arm,

You laugh;

you spit;

you wish me harm.

I turn and I run;

I stumble and I fall,

I feel your breath upon my neck;

who will hear my call !!

No one; no one will set me free,

Just as no one sits there to watch me bleed.

I ran and no one heard my cries;

saw me fall into my hole;

released from my death to enter another,

My grave.

STAR

Letters to the Editor

First of all, you have a fantastic professionally written magazine and I can't tell you much I admire you for creating it! Wow!

I read your article about Lobby Day in the February 6 edition of your magazine and thought it was a great thing to do! Now that the marriage amendment has been voted out of the Judiciary committee, I have an idea along the same lines for an article in the Panzee Press if you'd be interested.

Two legislators who voted it out of committee, Senators Piccola and Gordner, are both local to the Harrisburg area. Very few people know what they look like yet many of us have run into them (at the supermarket, gas station, drug store, in the capitol building, Strawberry Square, walking down the street, etc.) without knowing who they were. This is a very big missed opportunity on our part to let them

know that there are a lot of people out here who think we shouldn't be writing discrimination into the state constitution.

What do you think about having a short article with decent-sized pictures of our two Senators, urging Panzee Press readers to express their views about the proposed amendment to them when they actually see them in person?

Their office phone numbers and email addresses could also be included, but I think the face-to-face contact would be even more meaningful to them -- similar to the effect the people who participated in Lobby Day had, but with the possibility of having a much larger number of contacts.

There are good pictures, some of which can even be enlarged, along with their phone numbers and email addresses at their websites: www.pasen.gov.

Thanks again for all the work you do.

Sincerely,

Tom Chamberlain

Harrisburg, PA

Bolton,

I wanted to let you know that Panzee was a hit at Vision of Hope church [An MCC in Mountville, PA]. There are none left so maybe we better get more then 12 next time, and thank you for coming to the services this pass weekend , it was nice seeing you.

Chris Jackson

You know, Bolton, I don't know if I've ever met you, but I'm really impressed with your handling of [the Panzee's One Sentence Campaign] so far. You're a class act. I'm glad this town has Panzee, especially as I get to know more about who's behind it. Rock on.

*JD Sterling, Vice President
Unitarian Church of Harrisburg*

How do we start some groups talking? Every single BGLQT organization SHOULD be represented in Panzee's "One Sentence" campaign. SHAME on the them if they are not. This apathy and lack of response is the substance of how we as a voting public limit our impact. I believe we limit our own impact by limiting our involvement. If only we believed in our own power. We could overturn the entire state government if we could only get everyone to say "We do not like this and we can change it, what do we do?"

Rosemary Mirocco

PANZEE DISTRIBUTION

WITH THIS 21ST ISSUE,
OUR DISTRIBUTION IS....

3000!!

....THANK YOU FOR READING PANZEE!

South Central Pennsylvania

Bars/Clubs

Harrisburg	Brownstone
Manheim	Daug Haus
Harrisburg	Liquid 891
Harrisburg	Neptunes
Spring Grove	Ranch
Reading	Red Star
Harrisburg	Stallions
Harrisburg	Strawberry
Lancaster	Tally Ho
Lancaster	Molly's Pub
Lancaster	Belvedere
Lancaster	Showdown Lounge
Lancaster	Characters Pub
York	XS

Restaurants/Coffee Shops

Harrisburg	Roxi
Harrisburg	Sandwichman
Lancaster	Wish You Were Here
Lancaster	Square One Coffee
Lancaster	Dosie Dough

Shops

Harrisburg	The Bare Wall
Harrisburg	Broad Street Market
Harrisburg	Bingo Parlor
Harrisburg	Hot Tops (Colonial Park Mall)
Harrisburg	Paper Lion
Harrisburg	Pazazz
Lancaster	Rainbow Pet Creations

Community

Harrisburg	The Foundation for Enhancing Communities
	AIDS Community Alliance
	Common Roads
Harrisburg	G&L Chamber of Commerce
Harrisburg	Pride Festival of Central PA
Harrisburg	Pride Parade of Central PA
Lancaster	Rainbow Rose Community

Student

Harrisburg	Common Roads
Reading	Alvania GSA
Shippensburg	S.A.L.E

Spiritual

Harrisburg	MCC
Harrisburg	Unitarian Church
Lancaster	Universalist Church of Lanc.
Mountville	MCC Vision of Hope

Hbg Music, Art & Theater

Art Association of Harrisburg
Harrisburg Men's Chorus
Central PA Womyn's Chorus
Midtown Cinema

Hbg Hotels

Best Western
Red Roof Inn
Holiday Inn
Travel Lodge
Econo Lodge
Days Inn
Econo Lodge
Crown Plaza
Hilton
Marriott
Comfort Inn
Shariton

Hbg Apt Buildings

Harrisburg
Grayco

Harrisburg Salons

Totally Clips
C&K Classic Cuts
Orbit Salon
Tindell's Hair Spa

North Central Pennsylvania

Bars/Clubs

Sunbury	CCs
State College	Chumley's
Williamsport	Club Z
Altoona	Escapade
Altoona	Rumors

Shops

State College	George's Floral Boutique
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Lehigh Valley, Pennsylvania

Bars/Clubs

Allentown	Candida's
Allentown	Diamondz
Bethlehem	Stonewall

Shops

Allentown	Popmart
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Community

Lehigh Valley's	PA Diversity Network
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Social

Lehigh Valley	Takeover Lehigh Valley
---------------	------------------------

Music, Art & Theater

Allentown	Lehigh Valley Men's Chorus
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Spiritual

Allentown	MCCLV
-----------	-------

North East Pennsylvania

Bars/Clubs

Wilkes-Barre	Twist
Moosic	12 Penny
Edwardsville	Michael's Lounge

Community Service

Berwick	Caring Communities for AIDS
Kingston	Rainbow Alliance

Social

Wilkes-Barre	Pride of Northeast PA
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West Maryland

Social

Community
Triangle
Hagerstown TGS
Out For Fun
Tini Lounge

Club

Deer Park

Theater

Maryland Theater

Restaurants

The Gourmet Goat

Baltimore, Maryland

Bars/Clubs

Baltimore Eagle
Blue Parrot
Club Bunn
Club Orpheus
Coconuts Café
Drinkery
Gallery
Grand Central
Hippo
Jay's
Leon's
Phoenix
PW's
Quest
Rowan Tree

Social Services

Gay & Lesbian Cmty Ctr

Hotels

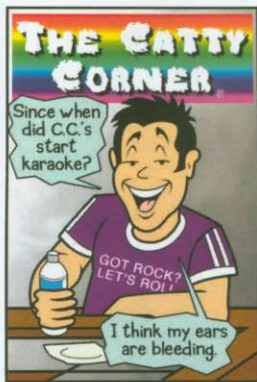
Admiral Fell Inn
Biltmore Suites
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Restaurants

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JOE CARR
FREE LANCE ARTIST

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Central PA Womyn's Chorus Annual Pancake Breakfast and Indoor Rummage Sale!!!

Date: Saturday April 5, 2008

Time: 7:30am--11:30am

Place: Colonial Park United Church of Christ

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